

Hunting & Trapping in Virginia

July 2006 - June 2007
Regulations and Information



This pamphlet is for general information. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia or the Game Department Regulation Manual. For answers to specific questions about hunting or trapping, contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. See page 2 for the office nearest you.

About the Department

Serving the outdoor public for 90 years, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries continues to move forward with renewed vigor and an encouraging sense of accomplishment.

Thanks to the efforts of the Department's wildlife biologists and game wardens, the state boasts a deer population of nearly one million animals and the most liberal deer hunting seasons ever known in the Commonwealth. Last season hunters harvested over 200,000 deer. Turkey and bear populations are also higher than any time since people have been keeping such records.

It takes work to maintain a plentiful supply of wildlife. Multiple wildlife projects are ongoing, and hundreds of jobs happen every day that often go unnoticed. The Department maintains over 1,000 miles of road and keeps up with more than 5,000 informational signs, along with nearly 200,000 acres of land on 36 management areas that are kept open and in good condition for public use. The Department also works cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service to help manage over one and a half million acres of wildlife habitat on National Forest lands in Virginia.

A big part of Virginia's wildlife abundance results from the work of Virginia game wardens. Wardens annually check over 54,000 hunters, more than 75,000 anglers, and at least 30,000 boaters as they patrol over 3 million miles annually.

Virginia's Hunter Education program is recognized as one of the best in the nation with more than 15,000 students certified each year. Hunter Education courses are taught free of charge throughout the Commonwealth by game wardens and over 700 volunteer instructors.

All of this work to keep wildlife abundant in Virginia is paid for by the hunters and anglers themselves. The Department receives the majority of its funds from hunting and fishing licenses and boat titling and registration fees.

Be sure to buy your hunting license before going afield. We wish you safe hunting.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact the office nearest you.

Richmond Headquarters

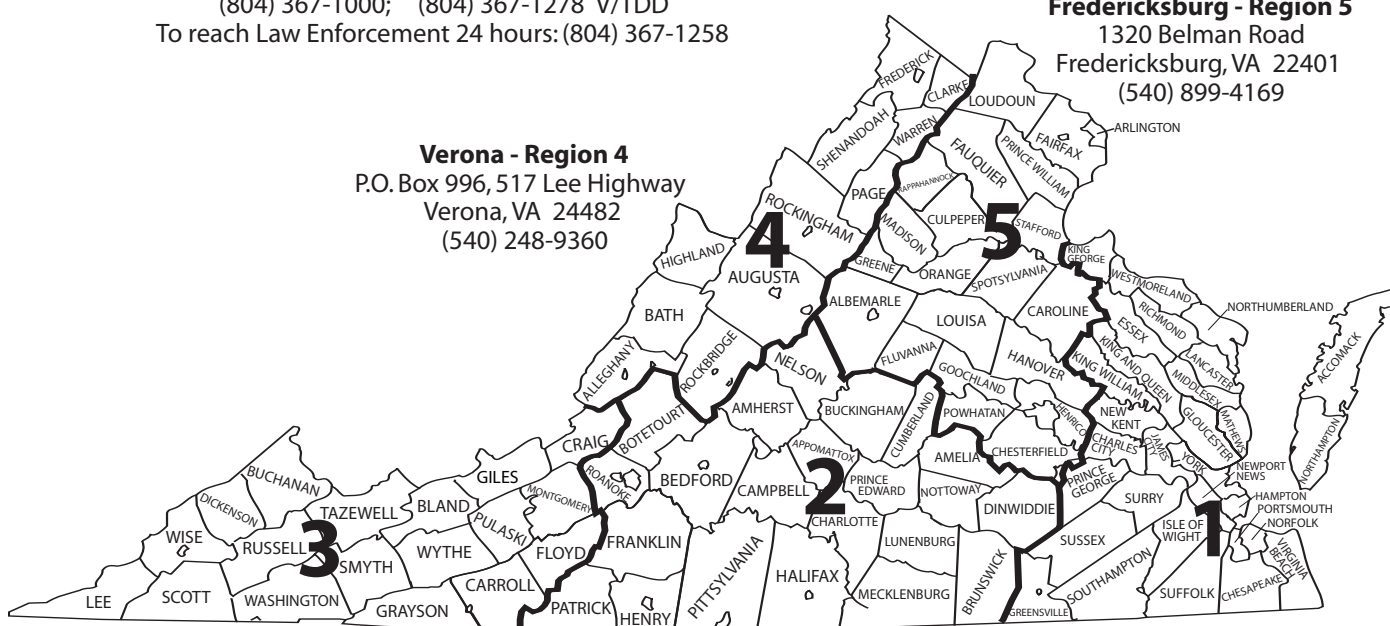
P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804) 367-1000; (804) 367-1278 V/TDD
To reach Law Enforcement 24 hours: (804) 367-1258

Fredericksburg - Region 5

1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169

Verona - Region 4

P.O. Box 996, 517 Lee Highway
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360



Marion - Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Forest - Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

West Point - Region 1

P.O. Box 276
Barhamsville, VA 23011
(804) 843-5962

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

Commonwealth of Virginia

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

Secretary of Natural Resources
J. Preston Bryant, Jr

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Colonel W. Gerald Massengill
Interim Director

Members of the Board

Ward Burton
Sherry Smith Crumley
C. Marshall Davison
William T. Greer, Jr.
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Richard E. Railey, Jr.
Thomas A. Stroup
Charles S. Yates

Cover : Red fox; ©John R. Ford

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

Working Together For Our Wildlife

The Department is pleased and honored to have the support of numerous non-profit conservation organizations that are dedicated to wildlife conservation and education. Through the involvement of thousands of citizen volunteers, as well as a financial commitment to a variety of agency projects, organizations such as the ones listed below have supported wildlife conservation efforts that benefit all Virginia sportsmen and women. We encourage everyone to support these organizations and to become active participants in one or more of these groups.

Recognized for 2006-2007 are the following:

Ducks Unlimited www.ducks.org	United Eastern Virginia Coon Hunters Association
Izaak Walton League of America www.iwla.org	Virginia Bear Hunters Association www.viriniabearhunters.org
National Wild Turkey Federation www.vanwtf.com	Virginia Bowhunters Association www.geocities.com/~vbarchers
Quail Unlimited www.qu.org	Virginia Deer Hunters Association www.viriniadeerhunters.org
Quality Deer Management www.qdma.com	Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association www.vpsa.org
Ruffed Grouse Society www.ruffedgrousesociety.org	Virginia Trappers Association www.viriniatrappers.org
Safari Club International Foundation www.safariclub.org	Virginia Waterfowlers Association www.vawfa.org
Southwest Virginia Coon Hunters Federation	Waterfowl USA www.waterfowlusa.org
Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia www.swmnv.com	Western Virginia Deer Hunters Association
Traditional Bowhunters of Virginia	



Virginia's Wildlife Restoration Program and You

Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlife oriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program. Virginia receives about \$4 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.

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What's New For 2006-2007

Licenses

- The Department has implemented a state of the art automated license system. All licenses are valid one year from date of purchase with two exceptions. See page 8.
- The license agent fee for issuing the license has increased from \$0.50 to \$1.00 for each license privileged sold.
- An increase of \$5.00 has been proposed for each license and permit sold except for youth licenses. If approved, effective July 1, 2006 the fees will be higher than the amounts printed in this publication.
- A new Sportsman's License is available to residents 16 years of age and older. See page 8.
- The 2006 General Assembly established a State Resident Junior Trapping License. See page 9.
- The 2006 General Assembly increased the fee for a State Forest Permit from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

Find Game

- Find Game is a new interactive, web-based map viewer program developed to provide information on hunting access. See page 10.

Deer

- The early and late archery seasons in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise will be open for either-sex deer hunting, except for the PALS area located in Dickenson County. See page 34.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading weapons designed for it. See page 35.
- The early muzzleloader deer season in Clarke, and on private lands in Frederick and Warren counties will be full season either sex. See page 34.
- The late muzzleloader season on private lands in Warren County will be full season either sex. See page 35.
- The early muzzleloader season on National Forest lands in Grayson County and portions of Grayson Highlands State Park in Grayson County will be buck only. See page 34.
- A new antlered deer restriction will be in effect in Shenandoah County. See pages 31 and 53.
- There is a new extended antlerless deer firearms season open in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties from January 8 through February 3. See page 38.
- Deer checked by telephone are now eligible to be entered in the big game shows. See page 26.

Deer Carcass Importation Restrictions

- A new regulation prohibits the importation of whole deer or elk carcasses and specific carcass parts from Chronic Wasting Disease positive states or Canadian provinces. See page 54.

Deer Feeding Prohibited

- A new regulation makes it illegal to place or distribute food, salt, or minerals to feed or attract deer from September 1 through January 6, statewide. See page 21.

Bear

- Portions of Grayson, Wythe, and Carroll counties have been included in the 2 week bear hound season. See page 30.
- Bear hound training season has been expanded in the western counties beginning the second Saturday in August. See page 30.
- Established a bear hound training season in the counties of Brunswick, Greensville, Lunenburg and Mecklenburg from December 4 thru December 16, except on Sundays. See page 30.

Turkey

- The first segment of the fall turkey season will open on a Saturday and close on a Friday. See page 39.

Small Game Seasons

- Saturday openings for Grouse, Quail and Rabbit instead of Monday openings. See page 41.
- It will be legal to harvest squirrels on select Wildlife Management Areas during June 2–23, 2007. See page 41.

Bobcat

- The ending date for the bobcat hunting season is now the last day in February.
- An archery season on bobcats was established from the first Saturday in October through October 31. See page 42.

Fox

- In counties where fox hunting with guns is allowed the season ending date was changed to the last day in February. See page 42.

Raccoon

- Raccoon chase season was expanded to 12 months in counties or portions of counties east of Route 29 and Route 15. See page 43.

Use of Electronic Calls

- Bobcats are added to the list of species that can be taken by the use of electronic calls. See page 42.
- Electronic calls can now be used on public lands except National Forests.

Trapping

Otter

- A season for river otter in certain counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains has been established from December 1 through the last day in February. See page 45.

Trap Size

- New allowances in jaw size for body gripping traps used on land. See page 44.

Definitions

Hunting and Trapping

The act of or the attempted act of taking, hunting, trapping, pursuing, chasing, shooting, snaring or netting birds or animals, and assisting any person who is doing the same, regardless of whether birds or animals are actually taken. When hunting and trapping is allowed, reference is made to such acts as being conducted by lawful means and in a lawful manner.

Archery Tackle

As used in this digest archery tackle includes longbow, recurve and compound bows and crossbows.

Game and Furbearer Species

Nonmigratory game birds (grouse, pheasant, bobwhite quail and turkey), game animals (bear, bobcat, deer, fox, rabbit, raccoon and squirrel), and furbearing animals (beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, otter, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel) may only be taken in accordance with state laws and Department regulations, many of which are summarized in this digest.

Nuisance Species

The following animals: house mouse, Norway rat, black rat, coyote, groundhog, nutria, feral hog, European starling, English sparrow, mute swans and pigeon (rock dove) are designated as nuisance species and may be taken at any time (except on Sunday) by use of a firearm or other weapon and on some public lands during certain time periods, see National Forest–Game Department Regulations page 16.

Other Wildlife

It is unlawful to take, possess, transport or sell all other wildlife species not classified as game, furbearer or nuisance, unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation.

A hunting license is required to take any wild animal or bird (except as explained under hunting licenses and permits). Persons taking frogs or turtles must have an appropriate license whether by hunting (gigging), trapping or angling. Bullfrogs may be taken by bow and arrow and from private waters by firearms no larger than .22 caliber rimfire.

Dismal Swamp Line

Beginning at a point on Rt. 10 where it intersects the Isle of Wight County line, then along this highway to its intersection with the corporate limits of Suffolk, then through Suffolk to its intersection with Rt. 642 (White Marsh Road) and then along this highway in a southwest direction to Rt. 604 (Desert Road), and then southerly along this highway to the North Carolina state line.

West & East of Blue Ridge

The following counties and cities and towns within are considered “west of the Blue Ridge.” If not listed here, they are considered “east of the Blue Ridge.” Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Clarke, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Page, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise and Wythe.

Hunting Licenses and Permits

Who Can Buy a Resident License:

- (1) persons who have been a bonafide resident of the city, county, or state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of application for license;
- (2) persons who have been domiciliary residents of the state for at least two months upon approval of a completed affidavit to be furnished by the Game Department;
- (3) legal voters in Virginia;
- (4) members of the armed forces if they reside in the Commonwealth and are on active duty and are stationed at military installations within, or on ships based in the Commonwealth;
- (5) students (including nonresident students boarding on campus) residing in Virginia who are enrolled in bonafide Virginia schools;
- (6) unnaturalized owners of real property in Virginia who have resided in a county for five years immediately prior to making application for a license may apply for resident licenses only in the county where they qualify.

Every person who is required to have a license must carry such license and shall show the license immediately upon demand of any officer whose duty it is to enforce the game and inland fish laws, or upon the demand of any owner or lessee, or any employee or representative of such owner or lessee, upon whose land or water such person may be hunting, trapping or fishing.

No state or county resident licensed to hunt, trap or fish in or on the lands or inland waters of this Commonwealth shall be deemed to be issued until the certificate printed on the reverse side of that license shall have been signed by the named licensee.

License Exceptions

All persons, except those listed below, must purchase the proper licenses before hunting or trapping.

- Resident or non-resident landowners, their spouses, their children and grandchildren and the spouses of such children and grandchildren, or the landowner’s parents, resident or non-resident, do not need a license to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters.
- Tenants, on the land they rent and occupy, are not required to have a license, but must have the written permission of the landowner.
- Residents, 65 years of age and over, do not need a license to hunt or trap on private property in their county of residence.
- Residents under the age of 12 are not required to obtain a license to hunt provided they are accompanied and directly supervised within sight of an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on their person.
- Residents under the age of 16 are not required to have a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid Virginia trapping license.
- Any person who is not hunting, but is aiding a disabled person to hunt when such disabled person possesses a valid Virginia

Disabled Resident Lifetime hunting license or a Virginia Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime license is not required to have a license.

- Any Indian who “habitually” resides on an Indian reservation or a member of the Virginia recognized tribes who resides in the Commonwealth is not required to have a license; however, such Indian must have on his person an identification card or paper signed by the chief of his tribe, a valid tribal identification card, written confirmation through a central tribal registry, or certification from a tribal office.

Mandatory Hunter Education Requirements

The following persons are required to present a Hunter Education Certificate in order to purchase a hunting license:

- All persons who are 12–15 years of age.
- All persons 16 years of age or older who have never been issued a hunting license.

The following persons may be issued a hunting license without presenting a Hunter Education Certificate:

- Any person 16 years of age or older who presents a previously issued hunting license.
Virginia accepts and recognizes all states' and countries' hunting licenses and hunter education credentials for the purpose of complying with mandatory hunter education requirements. These may be in the form of an identification card or certificate.
- Any person 16 years of age or older who certifies that he or she has held a previously issued hunting license by signing the back of the license.
- First time hunters and hunters 12 to 15 years of age are required to complete the hunter education course before buying a hunting license and to present the course completion certificate when the license is purchased. However, when these individuals have purchased their license by telephone, the Internet, or other electronic or computerized means (and cannot physically present the course completion certificate), they are allowed to comply with the law by carrying their course completion certificate on their person while hunting. There is an additional provision in the law that allows hunters 12 to 15 years of age not to carry the course completion certificate, provided they are accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has, on his person, a valid hunting license. It should be noted that if the supervising adult is a first time hunter who has purchased their license through an electronic means, they must be carrying their own course completion certificate as discussed above.
- Any person under the age of 12.
Youth (under the age of 12) must be accompanied and directly supervised within sight of a parent, legal guardian or an adult (designated by the parent or guardian) when hunting. The supervising adult must possess a valid Virginia hunting license.
- Any person who only hunts foxes with hounds while on horseback, but without firearms.

License Year

Effective July 1, 2006, all licenses sold by VDGIF will be valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the National Forest Permit.

Replacement License

If a license is lost, a duplicate license can be obtained from any license agent.

New Customer Service Center for Purchasers of Hunting Licenses.

A customer service center has been established to help purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses. The center will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F. The customer service center phone number is 1-866-721-6911. Representatives at the center will be available to answer questions about licensing, assist you in purchasing the licenses appropriate for your hunting or fishing outing, correct information on a current license or re-issue a lost license. If you have questions regarding licensing for recreational hunting and fishing in Virginia, the customer service center is your single phone call to get an answer.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education courses provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation and sportsmanship. The courses are a minimum of 10 hours in length and cover many topics preparing new hunters to enjoy their experience in the outdoors. Courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. To learn about courses available in your area, check the Department's Web site or contact one of the Department's regional offices. You can call 1-866-604-1122 for a listing of Hunter Education classes near you. For information about obtaining a replacement certificate check the Agency's Web site or call 1-877-486-8338.

**Treat Every Firearm As
If It Is Loaded.
Always Keep Your
Muzzle Pointed in a Safe
Direction.**

License Fees

At the April 25, 2006 meeting the Board of DGIF proposed to increase all hunting, trapping and fishing license and permit fees \$5.00 each for persons age 16 or older. Final Board action will be taken at the meeting on June 20, 2006, and any increase will be effective on July 1, 2006.

REMINDER: Effective July 1, 2006, all licenses sold by VDGIIF will be valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the National Forest Permit.

Resident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

If you are required to buy a resident hunting license, one of the following is needed to hunt in Virginia. Other licenses, permits or stamps may also be required.

Sportsman’s License for residents 16 years and older (includes resident hunting license, resident bear deer turkey license, archery license, muzzleloader license, fishing license and trout license)72.00

Resident License to hunt statewide (16 years or older) 12.00

County or City Resident License to hunt in county or city of residence only (16 years or older)5.00

Resident Junior License to hunt statewide (ages 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old)7.50

Resident Youth Combination License (*under 16 years old*) to hunt statewide; to hunt bear, deer, and turkey; to hunt with a bow and arrow during the archery seasons and to hunt with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloading seasons15.00

Resident Junior Lifetime License (*under age 12*) to hunt statewide. No annual bear, deer, turkey license required until age 12. National Forest Stamp, State Forest Stamp, County Damage Stamp and Bonus Deer Permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license. Available only through the Richmond office.250.00

Resident Lifetime License to hunt (annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license). Available only through the Richmond office.

age 12–44 (hunter education course required under age 16)	.250.00
Age 45–50	.200.00
Age 51–55	.150.00
Age 56–60	.100.00
Age 61–64	.50.00
Age 65 and over	.10.00

Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License to hunt and freshwater fish (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License to hunt, available only through Richmond Office; (annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this hunting license)5.00

Resident Senior Citizen Annual License (*age 65 and over*) to hunt (annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license)1.00

One or more of the following may be required in addition to the resident hunting license.

Resident Bear, Deer, Turkey License (*age 16 years or older*) to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide required in addition to county or state hunting license, or senior citizen license or lifetime license

How to Obtain a License

There are four ways to get your hunting license:

- ◆ Online: At the Department’s Web site. Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay.
- ◆ Telephone: Licenses can also be purchased by phone by calling 1-866-693-9157. Authorization number provided allows immediate hunting and a printed license is mailed later (usually 5-7 days following purchase).
- ◆ In Person: Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents located around the state. An issuance fee of \$1.00 will be added to each privilege sold.
- ◆ By Mail: Download and complete the proper form from the Department’s Web site and mail it to the address provided.

Archery/Crossbow/Muzzleloading License Requirements

- ◆ If hunting with a bow and arrow (longbow, recurve or compound) for any game species during any archery season you must have a state or county hunting license, an archery license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- ◆ If hunting with a crossbow for any game species during any archery season you must have a state or county hunting license, a crossbow license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- ◆ If hunting with a muzzleloading firearm for any game species during any muzzleloading deer season you must have a state or county hunting license, a muzzleloading license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- ◆ If hunting with archery tackle or muzzleloading rifle during the firearms deer season you do not need an archery, cross-bow or muzzleloading license.

(Not required if senior citizen's lifetime license was purchased before July 1, 1988. Not required for holders of Disabled Veterans Lifetime license.) **Valid July 1–June 30.**12.00

Resident Junior Bear, Deer, Turkey License (*under 16 years old*) to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide required in addition to Resident Junior Hunting License. **Valid July 1–June 30.**7.50

Resident Archery License to hunt statewide during the archery season12.00

Resident Crossbow License to hunt statewide during the archery season12.00

Resident Muzzleloading License to hunt during the muzzleloading season12.00

Resident Bonus Deer Permit (2 antlerless tags)
See page 25.12.00

Resident County Damage Stamp to hunt deer and bear in Smyth County, in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the clerk of the county. Not required of residents 65 years or older1.00

Nonresident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

If you are required to buy a nonresident hunting license, one of the following is needed to hunt in Virginia. Other licenses, permits, or stamps may also be required.

Nonresident License to hunt statewide (16 years or older)80.00

Nonresident 3-Day Trip License to hunt statewide. Must be 3 consecutive hunting days; no Sunday hunting; 16 years or older.40.00

Nonresident Youth License (*under age 12*) to hunt statewide12.00

Nonresident Youth License (*ages 12–15*) to hunt statewide15.00

Nonresident Youth Combination License (*under 16 years old*) to hunt statewide; to hunt bear, deer, and turkey; to hunt with a bow and arrow during the archery seasons and to hunt with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloading deer seasons30.00

Nonresident Lifetime License to hunt (available only through Richmond Office). Annual deer, bear, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license; 16 years or older.500.00

One or more of the following may be required in addition to the nonresident hunting license.

Nonresident Bear, Deer, Turkey License to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide, required in addition to hunting license or lifetime license. **Valid July 1 through June 30.**

Age 16 years or older60.00

Age 12–15 years old15.00

Under 12 years old12.00

Nonresident Archery License to hunt statewide during archery season25.00

Nonresident Crossbow License to hunt statewide during archery season25.00

Nonresident Muzzleloading License to hunt during the muzzleloading season25.00

Nonresident Shooting Preserve (to hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses)12.00

Nonresident Bonus Deer Permit (2 antlerless tags)
See page 25.25.00

Nonresident County Damage Stamp to hunt deer and bear in Smyth County, in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the clerk of the county5.00

Trapping Licenses

If you are required to buy a trapping license, one of the following is needed to trap in Virginia. Other licenses or permits may also be required.

County or City Resident License to trap in county or city of residence10.00

Resident License to trap statewide35.00

Resident Junior License (*under 16 years old*) to trap statewide10.00

Resident Senior Citizen License (*age 65 and over*) to trap1.00

Resident Senior Citizen Lifetime License (*age 65 or over*) to trap (available only through Richmond Office)10.00

Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License to trap (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License to trap (available only through Richmond Office)5.00

Nonresident License to trap (available only through Richmond Office)150.00

Miscellaneous Permits and Stamps

Permits:

National Forest Permit to hunt and trap within National Forests. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap; residents 65 and older who possess a valid license to hunt or trap; or holders of complimentary license to hunt. **Valid July 1–June 30.**3.00

State Forest Permit to hunt or trap on Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward and Sandy Point State Forests. Sold by the Dept. of Forestry and local license agents near the Forests. See page 13.15.00

Stamps:

Federal Migratory Bird Stamp to take migratory waterfowl, required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license and sold at U.S. Post Offices or online at www.duckstamp.com15.00

Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Mandatory; required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless licensed exempt, in addition to hunting license.9.75



www.dgif.virginia.gov
Click on Find Game

Find Game is an interactive Web-based map viewer designed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to provide information about hunting quality, land location and access.

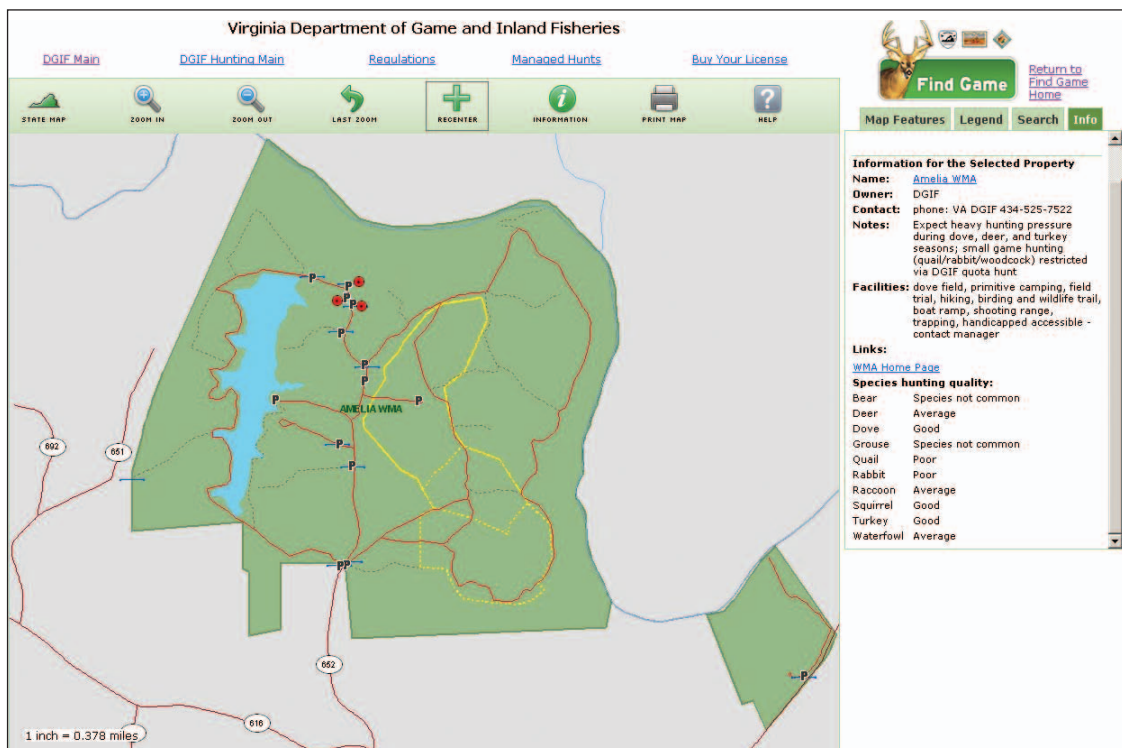
Find Game allows you to map hunting areas by location and/or by game species. The following public hunting lands are included:

- VDGIF Wildlife Management Areas
- State parks
- State and National Forests
- Military Installations
- National Wildlife Refuges
- and other special hunting opportunities

Within Virginia there are 3.5 million acres of public hunting land. Find Game lists: hunting quality by species, land manager contact information, site description, facilities available, access information, and associated Web links for each of the 115 properties.

While Find Game provides a wealth of information, VDGIF strongly recommends that hunters contact local land managers before traveling to a hunting destination. Hunting access and regulations change over time, so check Find Game often!

For more information e-mail:
Findgame@dgif.virginia.gov



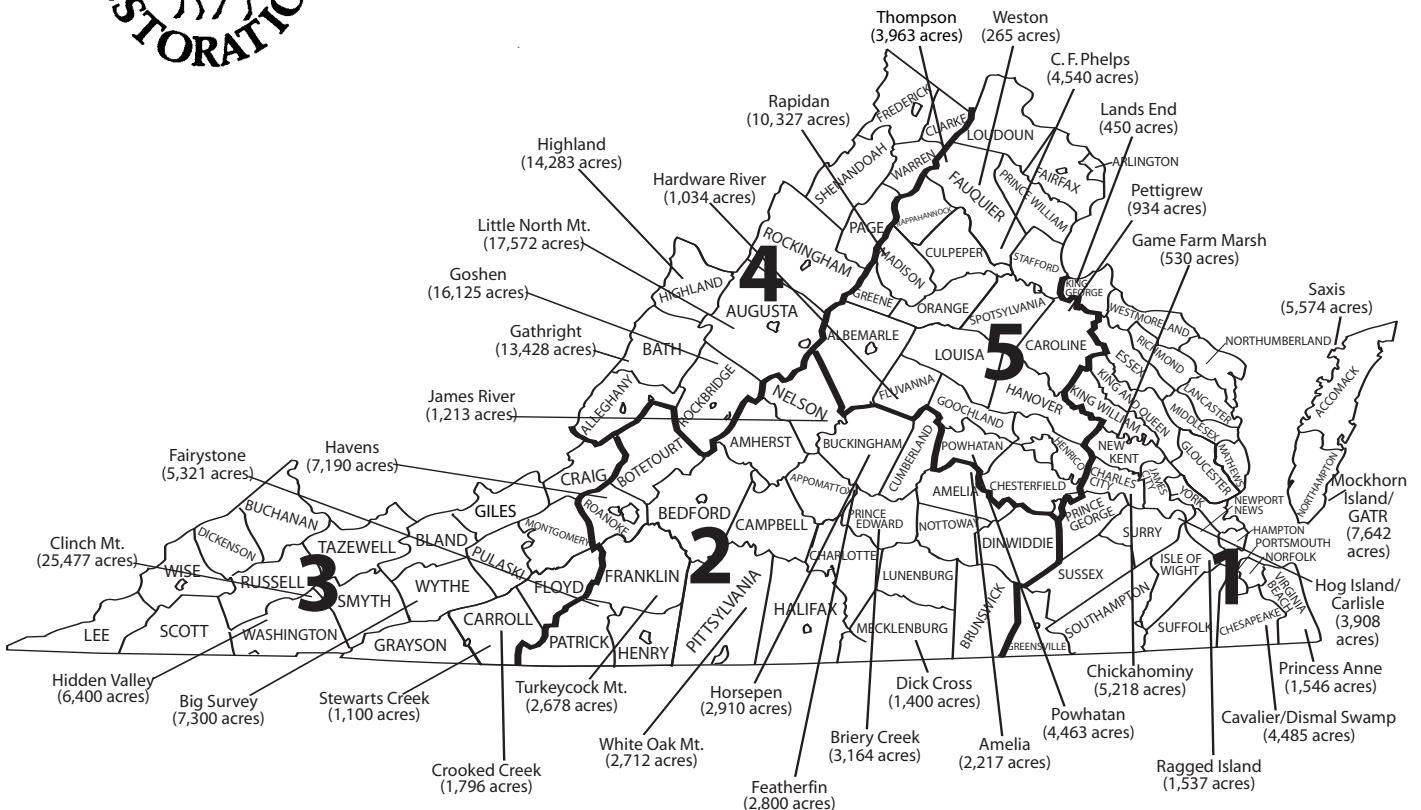
Public Hunting Lands

Department Wildlife Management Areas

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains 36 management areas totaling nearly 200,000 acres for the benefit of all citizens for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Thirty-four management areas are open for some type of hunting. These lands are purchased and maintained with hunting, fishing and trapping license fees and with Wildlife Restoration Funds. We encourage the public to utilize our land and enjoy the bountiful natural resources found on each area. The map below and charts on pages 13 and 14 provide a guide on the location and activities associated with each of the Department's wildlife management areas. For more detailed information on each area and an area map visit the Department's Web site or contact the appropriate Regional office listed on page 2.



Michelle Lehner



Rules For Wildlife Management Areas

General

- ◆ Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.
- ◆ Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public is prohibited.
- ◆ Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

Hunting & Trapping

Please refer to the current hunting and trapping seasons found in this digest. Special seasons and bag limits that apply to a wildlife management area will be posted at the entrance.

Firearms

- ◆ It is unlawful to have in possession or in a vehicle a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasants, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel or turkey; and additionally, migratory game birds on Department owned lands east of the Blue Ridge; or by permit issued by the Department; or by concealed handgun permit issued by a Circuit Court.
- ◆ It is unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on a WMA.
- ◆ Target shooting is permitted on designated ranges only.

Fishing, Boating and Swimming

Please refer to the current Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations digest and posted signs for any special creel and size restrictions that may apply to WMA.

- ◆ It is unlawful to use boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail or by mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel, unless otherwise posted.
- ◆ Swimming is prohibited. Anglers actively engaged in fishing, hunters actively engaged in hunting, and trappers lawfully trapping may wade in public fishing lakes.
- ◆ It is unlawful to use trotlines on public fishing lakes.

Camping/Fires

- ◆ Primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms or other facilities) is permitted for up to 14 consecutive days when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. No more than 3 camping units are permitted per site.
- ◆ Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any boat ramp or fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted.
- ◆ It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

Dogs

- ◆ It is lawful to chase with dogs or train dogs on Department-owned lands only during authorized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of open hunting, chase, or training seasons.

Horseback/Bicycle Riding and Hiking

- ◆ Horseback and bicycle riding are welcome on all roads and trails unless otherwise posted. Please avoid riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas. Riders and cyclists should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- ◆ Hiking is welcome. Hikers should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- ◆ Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.
- ◆ Blaze orange hat or clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

Vehicles

- ◆ Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- ◆ Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- ◆ Cross-country motor vehicle travel (off-road travel) is prohibited.
- ◆ Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.

Resource and Property Damage

- ◆ It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- ◆ It is unlawful to cut, mutilate, destroy or remove vegetation, or to remove minerals, artifacts or other property from the area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- ◆ It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.

Special Antler Rules

- ◆ It shall be unlawful to kill an antlered deer on Featherfin Wildlife Management Area or on the special Fairystone Quality Deer Management Area unless the deer has at least four antler points, 1 inch or longer, on either the right or left antler.

Other uses are allowed only by written authorization from the Department or by posted rules.

Hunting Opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas

For more information go to Find Game at www.dgif.virginia.gov

	Bear	Deer	Turkey	Grouse	Quail	Rabbit	Dove Fields	Woodcock	Waterfowl	Squirrel	Raccoon
Amelia	SC	A	A		P	G	G	G	A	G	A
Big Survey	A	A	A	A		SC				G	A
Briery Creek	SC	A	A		P	A		A	G	A	A
Cavalier/Dismal Swamp	A	G	P		A	A		A		P	G
Chickahominy		G	G		P	A		P	A	G	G
Clinch Mountain	G	A	A	G		G		SC	A	E	A
Crooked Creek	SC	A	A	P	P	G		SC		G	A
Dick Cross		A	A		P	A	G	A	G	A	A
Fairystone Farm	P	G	G	P	P	A		P		E	G
Featherfin	P	G	G		P	G		G	A	G	G
Game Farm Marsh		P	P						A		
Gathright	G	A	G	A	SC	A		A	A	E	A
Goshen	E	A	G	A	SC	A		P		G	A
Hardware River	SC	G	A	SC	A	G		A	A	G	G
Havens	G	A	A	P		SC		SC		G	A
Hidden Valley	G	P	A	P		SC			P	E	A
Highland	G	G	G	A	SC	A		P		G	A
Hog Island		G							E		
Hog Island/Carlisle Tract		A	A		P	A		P	A	G	G
Horsepen Lake	SC	A	G		P	P	G	A	P	G	G
James River	P	A	A		P	G	A	A	A	A	G
Lands End (no hunting)											
Little North Mountain	G	G	G	A	SC	A		P		E	A
Mockhorn Island									A		G
Mockhorn Island (GATR)		A	A						A		
Pettigrew	SC	E	A	SC	A	G		A	A	G	A
Phelps	SC	E	A	SC	A	A	G	A	A	G	A
Powhatan	SC	A	G	SC	P	A	A	A	A	G	G
Princess Anne									G		
Ragged Island		A							A		
Rapidan	E/G	A	A	A	SC	P	P	A	P	G	A
Saxis		A				A		A	A		A
Stewarts Creek	SC	A	A	P		SC				G	A
Thompson	SC	G	A	A	SC	A	P	A	A	G	A
Turkeycock Mt.	P	A	A	P	SC	P		P		G	A
Weston (no hunting)											
White Oak Mt.	SC	A	A		A	G	G	A	P	G	G

Hunting Quality: E - Excellent G - Good A - Average P - Poor SC - Species Not Common

Recreational Opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas

For more information go to Find Game at www.dgif.virginia.gov

	Hunting	Trapping	Trout	Warm Water Fishing	Saltwater Fishing	Developed Camping	Primitive Camping	Field Trials	Hiking	Birding/ Wildlife Trails	Boat Ramp	Ranges
Amelia *	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Big Survey	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
Briery Creek	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cavalier/Dismal Swamp *	✓	✓								✓		
Chickahominy	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	✓
Clinch Mountain	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Crooked Creek	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Dick Cross *	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fairstone Farm	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
Featherfin *	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Game Farm Marsh	✓	✓		✓								
Gathright	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
Goshen	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓			
Hardware River	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Havens	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
Hidden Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Highland	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓			
Hog Island *	✓				✓					✓		
Hog Island/Carlisle Tract	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	
Horsepen Lake	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
James River	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Lands End (no hunting)										✓		
Little North Mountain	✓	✓					✓		✓			
Mockhorn Island	✓	✓			✓		✓					
Mockhorn Island (GATR) *	✓				✓					✓		
Pettigrew	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Phelps	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Powhatan	✓	✓		✓			✓					
Princess Anne *	✓				✓					✓	✓	
Ragged Island	✓	✓			✓					✓		
Rapidan	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Saxis	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓	
Stewarts Creek	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Thompson	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
Turkeycock Mt.	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Weston (no hunting)				✓			✓		✓	✓		
White Oak Mt.	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓

* some or all hunting by quota drawing (see page 62)

✓ Available



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To Report Violations
call 1-800-237-5712 or
e-mail: wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

A game warden can also be reached by calling your local Sheriff's Office or Police Department. When reporting try to get as much information as possible, such as:

What happened.

Where did it happen; be as specific as possible

Who was involved; describe persons (names if known), vehicles (license numbers are crucial), and names of other witnesses.

When did it happen.

Don't allow the actions of a few outlaws tarnish the reputation of Virginia's sportsmen!

Public Access Lands For Sportsmen (PALS)

PALS is a new program that opens additional lands for public use. Through this cooperative private/public program the Department has opened more than 19,000 acres of private land in Dickenson County to public hunting, fishing and trapping. The property is owned by Heartwood Forestland Fund IV and managed by The Forestland Group, LLC. The Department manages access for hunting, fishing and trapping. Hunters, anglers and trappers must buy a \$12.50 permit from a license agent. Inquiries about this area should be directed to the Regional Wildlife Manager in the VDGIF Marion Regional Office at 276-783-4860.

The Department hopes to provide additional PALS lands in the future across other parts of the Commonwealth.

National Forests

Parking fees are required only on the following National Forest Recreation Areas: Todd Lake, Coles Point, Longdale, Fortney Branch, Sherando Lake, Bolar Mountain, Bolar Flat, Cascades, High Knob, Bark Camp Lake, Hanging Rock, Cave Mountain Lake, Beartree, Hurricane, Grindstone, Raven Cliff, Fox Creek, Raccoon Branch, Roaring Run and Dark Horse Hollow. Seasonal day use passes are available for \$25.00. A 50% discount is available for holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports. For more information please call the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests' Supervisor's Office at (540) 265-5100 or contact the appropriate ranger district at:

Clinch: (276) 328-2931

Dry River/Deerfield: (540) 432-0187

Glenwood-Pedlar: (540) 291-2189

James River: (540) 962-2214

Lee: (540) 984-4101

Mount Rogers National Recreation Area:
(276) 783-5196

New River Valley/New Castle (540) 552-4641

Warm Springs: (540) 839-2521

Regulations Specific to National Forest and Game Department Lands

It shall be unlawful to have in possession a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled on all National Forest lands statewide, or on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey or waterfowl on these lands; and on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, waterfowl or migratory game birds on these lands.

Except as provided by special concealed handgun permit, it shall be unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any

vehicle at any time on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands. "Loaded gun" is defined as a firearm in which ammunition is chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip, when such magazine or clip is found engaged or partially engaged in a firearm. The definition of a loaded muzzleloading gun will include a gun which is capped or has a charged pan.

The word "possession" shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow or firearm in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.

It is unlawful to chase with a dog or train dogs on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands except during authorized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities on these lands.

It is unlawful to use electronic calls on National Forest lands.

Access Roads

Hunter access roads on Department lands seasonally open to motor vehicles will be open (weather permitting) from the 1st Saturday in October to the 2nd Saturday in February and the 1st Saturday in April to the 3rd Saturday in May.

Opening and closing dates of hunter access roads on National Forest Lands may vary by ranger district. Opening and closing dates are determined by management considerations for the areas accessed by these roads. Contact the local ranger district listed at left for opening and closing dates on specific roads.

Any motor driven vehicle using roads normally open to motor vehicles on Department and National Forest lands shall conform with all state laws for highway travel. No cross country travel is permitted. All terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) travel is permitted only on designated National Forest roads and trails.

Foot travel is invited on roads closed to motor vehicles.

Camping Policy

Primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms or other facilities) is permitted on Department-owned lands, except as otherwise posted. Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any Department-owned or controlled boat ramp or fishing lake. Camping on Department-owned lands is not to exceed 14 consecutive days. Only 3 camping units permitted per site.

Camping on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests for more than 21 consecutive days without having terminated Forest occupancy for a minimum of 10 days within a 31-day time period is prohibited.

Structures

It is unlawful to construct, maintain or occupy any permanent structure, except by permit, on Department-owned lands and National Forest lands.

Unauthorized Feeding

It is unlawful to place or direct the placement of, deposit, distribute, or scatter food or salt capable of attracting or being eaten by bear, deer or turkey on National Forest lands and Department-owned lands. This regulation does not prohibit the proper disposal of food in trash receptacles provided by the National Forest or by the Department. See page 21 for other feeding restrictions.

It is unlawful to maintain any temporary dwelling on Department-owned land for more than 14 consecutive days. Persons constructing or occupying such structures are responsible for complete removal of temporary structures.

Tree Stands

It is unlawful to construct, maintain or occupy any permanent tree stand on Department-owned lands, National Forest lands and on Department of Conservation and Recreation- owned or controlled lands. Portable tree stands, which are not permanently affixed, may be used. Use of a safety harness while hunting from tree stands is strongly recommended.

State Forests

Hunting is allowed on Appomattox-Buckingham and Prince Edward State Forests (contact 434-983-2175), Cumberland State Forest (contact 804-492-4121) and on Sandy Point State Forest (contact 804-492-4121). A State Forest Hunting Permit is required and may be purchased from local license agents or the Department of Forestry. No motorized vehicles on gated roads and trails (opened or closed) are permitted without written authorization.

State Parks

Virginia State Parks offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for the entire family, including hunting opportunities. These range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts where individuals participate through a reservation or lottery system. Managed deer hunts are a tool in Virginia State Parks' overall deer management program. Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year. Participating hunters are asked to support management efforts by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

Please refer to pages 18 and 19 for additional information and the chart for park specific hunt information. Information is also available on the Web site at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/hunting/htm>.

Federal Refuges

Hunting is allowed on the following National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia. For more information, contact the appropriate refuge manager at:

- *Back Bay: (757) 721-2412
- Chincoteague: (757) 336-6122
- Dismal Swamp: (757) 986-3705
- Eastern Shore: (757) 331-2760
- James River: (804) 829-9020 or (804) 333-1470
- Mason Neck/Occoquan: (703) 490-4979
- *Plum Tree Island: (804) 829-9020 or (804) 333-1470
- *Presquile: (804) 829-9020 or (804) 333-1470
- *Rappahannock River Valley: (804) 333-1470

* Quota hunts are offered through VDGIF Quota Hunt program, see pages 62-65

Military Areas

Fort A.P. Hill

Archery Season: October 7–November 17.

Muzzleloading Season: November 4–November 17.

General Firearms: November 18–January 6. One deer per day. Either sex deer hunting on Saturdays and November 20–24 and Jan. 1–5. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day. Open half day on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

All persons 12 years of age and older must present a hunter education certificate in order to purchase an A.P. Hill hunting permit.

Contact Fort A.P. Hill Game Check Station at (804) 633-8244 for details about the hunter education requirements, permits and fees required to hunt on Post; and restrictions, seasons and bag limits for all other game species.

Fort Pickett

Deer:

General Firearms: November 18–January 6. Two per day, four per year, either-sex deer hunting on Wednesdays and November 25, December 2 and January 1–6.

Quail:

Hunting permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.

Contact the Ft. Pickett Game Check Station at (434) 292-2618 for further details about seasons and special restrictions.

Quantico Marine Reservation

Deer:

General Firearms: November 18–January 6. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Open half day on Thanksgiving Day.

Archery Season: October 7–November 17.

No Muzzleloading Season.

Consult Quantico Game Check Station for daily and seasonal bag limits, other seasons and further details, at (703) 784-5523 or www.quantico.usmc.mil/g5/nrea/fwa/hunting.htm.

Fort Belvoir

Archery Only: qualification required.

Deer: September 16, 2006–March 31, 2007.

Spring Gobbler: April 14–May 19, 2007.

Contact Outdoor Recreation staff at (703) 805-3688 for further details.

National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks in Virginia. Hunters may obtain hunter parking access permits from the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park Service to park at designated areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway and cross national park lands (weapons must be unloaded and cased) to hunt on National Forest lands. For further information call (540) 377-2377.

Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas Hunting Opportunities

State Park or Natural Area	Hunting Dates	Reservation Hunt*	Lottery Hunts*	Lottery Deadline	Reservation Period Begins	Number of Hunters/Day	Weapons Allowed	Application Fee	Hunting Fee	Reservation Fee	Hunter Education Required
Belle Isle Lancaster County 804-462-5030	11/14-15		✓	10/20		11	M	\$5	\$10		✓
	1/3-4		✓	12/8		11	G	\$5	\$10		✓
Caledon Natural Area ¹ King George County 540-663-3861	11/9-10 11/16-17	✓			9/13	20	M			\$15	✓
Chippokes Plantation Surry County 757-294-3625	12/11	✓			9/27	30	S,bs			\$15	✓
Claytor Lake Pulaski County 540-643-2500	TBA	✓			10/11	20	M			\$15	✓
Douthat Bath County 540-862-8100	11/13-16	✓			9/6	45	M			\$15	✓
	TBA	✓			9/6	45	G			\$15	✓
False Cape Virginia Beach 757-426-7128	*Lottery includes Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, see DGIF Quota Hunt on page 63										✓
Grayson Highlands Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/13-14		✓	10/20		30	M	\$5	\$10		✓
	11/20-21		✓	10/27		30	G	\$5	\$10		✓
James River Buckingham County 434-933-4355	11/27-28 12/12-14	✓			9/27	15	A,M			\$15	✓
	1/4-6	✓			9/27	15	S,bs			\$15	✓
Kiptopeke Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/10-11		✓	10/13		4	A,M	\$5	\$10		✓
	12/8-9		✓	11/3		4	S	\$5	\$10		✓

1 Requires weapon qualification. 2006 qualification to be held October 1. Contact Caledon for additional information.

* To apply for hunt lotteries, or to reserve a space in a reservation hunt, call the **State Parks Reservation Center at 1-800-933-PARK**. All hunts have special regulations. Contact the individual park or the reservation center to obtain the hunt specific rules.

Key
A - Archery
M - Muzzleloading Firearms
S - Shotgun
bs - Buckshot only
G - General Firearms
YG - Youth General Firearms

Open Hunting: Designated areas within the following parks are open to hunting throughout the hunting season. Statewide regulations apply. Contact the individual park for more information: **Fairystone** (Patrick County) 276-930-2424, **Grayson Highlands** (Grayson County) 276-579-7092, **Hungry Mother** (Smyth County) 276-781-7400, **Oconeechee** (Mecklenburg County) 434-374-2210, and **Pocahontas** (Chesterfield County) 804-796-4255.

State Park or Natural Area	Hunting Dates	Reservation Hunts*	Lottery Hunts*	Lottery Deadline	Reservation Period Begins	Number of Hunters/Day	Weapons Allowed	Application Fee	Hunting Fee	Reservation Fee	Hunter Education Required
Mason Neck Fairfax County 703-490-4979	11/27–28; 12/8	✓		9/1		86	S,bs	tbd	tbd		
	*Lottery coordinated by Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge										
Shenandoah River Warren County 540-622-6840	11/20-21	✓			9/20	7	YG			\$15	✓
	11/27–28	✓			9/20	14	G			\$15	✓
Smith Mountain Lake Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/6-7 11/13–14	✓			9/20	30	A,M			\$15	✓
York River James City County 757-566-3036	11/6-7	✓			9/6	40	A,M			\$15	✓
	11/27–28	✓			9/6	40	S			\$15	✓

State Parks continued from page 17

Lottery Hunts

Several parks offer hunting opportunities by lottery. Refer to the chart for details. A separate lottery application is required for each hunt. A \$5 non-refundable application fee is required with each completed application, and a \$10 hunting fee will be collected at the site. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. Detailed hunt information, including lottery deadlines, is typically available beginning August 1 of each year. Contact the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center (1-800-933-7275) for information about the lotteries. Additionally, Mason Neck State Park holds a lottery deer hunt coordinated by the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge. **New this year, False Cape State Park's lottery will be coordinated with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, through the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Quota Hunt system. See pages 62-65.**

Reservation Hunts

Several parks offer deer hunting opportunities by reservation. Refer to the chart for details. Hunters may reserve both the day and preferred stand or zone for a fee of \$15 per day. The fee is non-refundable. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. Detailed hunt information, including hunt reservation periods, is typically available beginning August 1 of each year. Contact the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center (1-800-933-7275) to reserve a slot.

Special Hunts

Some parks offer hunting opportunities for youth and for disabled individuals, as well as specialized hunting programs. Contact individual parks for more information on special hunts. One popular program is the Southern Heritage Deer Hunt held at Chippokes Plantation State Park each year. This is an old-fashioned hunt featuring three traditional meals, a blessing of the hounds, rides to and from the hunt stands and a butchering service. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance through the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center (1-800-933-7275).

Open Hunting

Designated areas within some parks are open to hunting throughout the hunting season. Only the designated areas within these parks allow hunting, and statewide hunting regulations apply. Restrictions on parking and weapons may apply. Refer to the chart for details. Contact the individual park for more information.

For more information about hunting in a Virginia State Park or to make reservations, call 1-800-933-PARK, or on the Web at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/hunting.htm>. Overnight accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season; contact the Reservation Center or visit the Web site for additional information and to reserve cabins or campsites.

General Hunting Regulations

Blaze Orange Requirements

- When hunting any game species during the firearms deer season, every hunter or person accompanying a hunter shall wear a blaze orange hat or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze orange material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze orange. Hats shall not be in “camo” style, since the latter is designated to prevent visibility. A logo, which does not detract from visibility, may be worn on a blaze orange hat.
- Blaze orange is not required during the muzzleloading deer season(s) or by waterfowl hunters, individuals participating in hunting dog field trials and fox hunters on horseback without firearms.
- Hunters hunting with archery tackle during an open firearms deer season, in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by state law or local ordinance, are exempt from the blaze orange requirement.

Hunting Hours

(See page 78 for sunrise-sunset timetable.)

- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for nonmigratory birds and game animals except during spring gobbler season.
- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon, during spring gobbler season except the last 12 days the hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.
- Bobcat, foxes, raccoons, and opossums may be hunted by day or night during authorized seasons.
- Migratory game birds, waterfowl, and special resident goose (see special pamphlets for hunting these species).
- Nuisance species may be taken day or night.

Hunting With Dogs:

- Dogs may be used to pursue wild birds and animals during hunting seasons where not prohibited.
- When the chase begins on other lands, fox hunters and coon hunters may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, but may not carry firearms or archery tackle on their persons or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent.
- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting any species with archery tackle during any archery season.

Deer or Bear Killed by Car

Any person who is involved in a collision with a deer or bear while driving a motor vehicle, thereby killing the animal, shall immediately report the accident to the game warden or other law enforcement officer in the county or city where the accident occurred. The driver shall have the option of taking possession of the deer or bear. The State does not pay for damages incurred resulting from collisions with wildlife. Consult your insurance company.

Training Dogs

The training of dogs on live wild animals is considered hunting and is unlawful during the closed season except as noted below.



- You must have a valid hunting license while training dogs on live wild animals.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and non-migratory game birds on private lands and Quantico Marine Reservation. Participants shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession and no wild animals shall be taken. Weapons may be in possession when training dogs on captive raised and properly marked mallards and pigeons so that they may be immediately shot or recovered, except on Sunday.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and nonmigratory game birds on Ft. A.P. Hill the months of September and February. Participants may only have starter pistols in their possession. No captive reared birds may be released.
- You may train dogs on National Forest or Department-owned lands only during authorized training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- You may train dogs on quail on designated portions of the Amelia Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Chester F. Phelps WMA, Chickahominy WMA and Dick Cross WMA from September 1 to the day prior to the opening date of the quail hunting season, both dates inclusive. No weapons other than starter pistols may be in possession, and pen-raised birds may not be released.
- Pen-raised quail may be released at any time on private land with landowner permission. However, except on shooting preserves, birds can only be shot during the regular quail season. Regular bag limits apply.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and nonmigratory game birds on the Weston WMA from September 1 thru March 31, both dates inclusive. Participants in this dog training season shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession, shall not release pen-raised birds, and must comply with all regulations and laws pertaining to hunting. No game shall be taken.

Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment

- Shotguns must not be larger than 10 gauge.
- Shotgun magazines must be plugged with a plug that cannot be removed from the loading end so the gun will hold a total of no more than three shells.
- Shotgun barrels must be at least 18 inches long.
- Shotguns with rifled barrels are permitted in areas where slugs may be used (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 23).
- No restrictions on shot size except for spring gobbler season when it is unlawful to have any shot in possession larger than number 2 fine shot while hunting.
- Rifles used for deer or bear must be .23 caliber or larger.
- Rifles may be used for taking wild animals and birds, except migratory game birds and waterfowl, and where prohibited by local ordinances (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 23).
- Rifles, pistols, and revolvers may be used for hunting crows, except where prohibited by local ordinances (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg.23).
- Pistols and revolvers firing .22 caliber rimfire ammunition and muzzleloading pistols may be used for small game where .22 rifles are permitted (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 23).
- Archery tackle may be used for hunting wild birds and animals. (See Archery/Crossbow/Muzzleloading License Requirements pg. 8).
- Muzzleloading shotguns, muzzleloading rifles or archery tackle may be used to hunt during the firearms seasons where not prohibited (see Local Firearms Ordinances pg. 23 and Archery/Muzzleloading License Requirements pg. 8).
- All game birds and animals, except deer, may be hunted with shotguns from boats. Hunters must have permission from the landowner to hunt/retrieve game located on private land.
- Pistols and revolvers are lawful for deer and bear hunting only in those counties where hunting deer and bear with rifles is lawful. Cartridges used must be .23 caliber or larger and have a manufacturer's rating of 350 foot-pounds muzzle energy or more.

- Concealed handguns may be in the possession of hunters during the archery and muzzleloading seasons when they also possess a valid concealed handgun permit. Such handguns may not be used to shoot wild animals during these seasons.
- Crossbows are legal to use by any hunter.
 - If a crossbow is used during an archery season (including the urban archery season) the hunter must have a crossbow license.
 - Disabled hunters unable to use conventional archery equipment will no longer need a doctor's certification to use a crossbow. A disabled hunter will need a crossbow license when using a crossbow during an archery season.
 - If a hunter chooses to use both conventional archery tackle and a crossbow during an archery season, they will need both an archery license when using the conventional bow and a crossbow license when using the crossbow.
 - If a hunter chooses to use a crossbow during the firearms season, no crossbow license will be required (just as there is no requirement for a person to have an archery license if using conventional archery equipment during the firearms season).
 - The laws governing the use of archery tackle also apply to crossbow tackle.

Shooting From the Road is Illegal

Shooting at wildlife from a vehicle and/or from or across a public road is illegal. Penalties include: fines, license revocation and confiscation of firearms.

Unlawful Feeding of Wildlife

Not only is it illegal to hunt, chase with dogs, or attempt to kill game birds and animals from a baited site (see the specific rules about baiting on page 22), it is also illegal to feed some wildlife under certain circumstances. Feeding restrictions help control the transmission of diseases, nuisance problems, littering concerns, and enforcement issues about hunting with bait.

Unlawful to Feed Deer

(September 1, 2006 – January 6, 2007):

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, salt, minerals or similar substances, to feed or attract deer from September 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive. Nor, upon written notification by Department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer. No part of this regulation shall be construed to restrict bona fide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots) or distribution of food to livestock.

Unlawful to Feed Bears (anytime):

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, minerals, carrion, or similar substances to feed or attract bear. Nor, upon written notification by Department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, mineral, carrion or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the presence of bear in such numbers or circumstances to cause annoyance or inconvenience to any person, cause property damage, or endanger any person or wildlife.

Unlawful Methods

Penalties may include hunting license revocation for one year to life and forfeiture of firearms.

A person found guilty of a violation a second time within three years of a previous conviction shall have their license revoked by the court trying the case.

It is unlawful to:

- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with firearms or other weapons on Sunday, except on licensed shooting preserves. Raccoon hunters may hunt until 2:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.
- Discharge a firearm or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any public road.
- Cast a light attached to a vehicle or from a vehicle beyond a road-way upon places used by deer without written permission of the landowner or at anytime while in the possession of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, archery tackle, or speargun.
- Handle any firearm in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Destroy, mutilate, or take down “posted” signs or to litter.
- Hunt adjacent to forest fires.
- Willfully and intentionally impede the lawful hunting or trapping of wild birds or wild animals.
- Kill or cripple and knowingly allow any non-migratory game bird or game animal to be wasted without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in possession.
- Hunt (under age 12) without being accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed parent, guardian, or other adult designated by the parent or guardian. The term “directly supervised” means the youth hunter must be within sight of the person supervising.
- Shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of the state.
- Carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on public inland waters for hunting wild birds or animals.
- Shoot waterfowl or migratory game birds from a boat being propelled by a motor.
- Hunt or trap on another’s land without the landowner’s permission. (See Hunting on Private Property pg.72)
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotic drugs.
- Molest eggs, nest, den or young of any wild bird or animal, except nuisance species, at any time without a permit as required by law.
- Occupy any baited blind or other baited place for the purpose of taking or attempting to take any wild game bird or wild game animal or to put out bait or salt for the purpose of taking or killing any wild game bird or wild game animal, except for the purpose of trapping furbearing animals.
- Chase with dogs or hunt with dogs or to attempt to chase or hunt with dogs any wild animal from a baited site or to train dogs on any wild animal from a baited site. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to place, distribute or maintain bait or salt for any wild animal for the purpose of chasing with dogs, hunting with dogs or the training of dogs. Bait shall mean any food, grain, or other consumable substance that could serve as a lure or attractant; however, crops grown for normal or accepted agriculture or wildlife management purposes shall not be considered as bait. A baited site will be considered to be baited for 30 days following the complete removal of all such bait or salt.
- Shoot or attempt to take any wild bird or animal from any vehicle, except as otherwise provided by law.
- Exceed the bag limit or possess over the daily limit of any wild bird or animal while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state.
- Use live birds or animals to decoy or call game.
- Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.
- Hunt or attempt to kill or trap any species of wild bird or wild animal after having obtained the daily bag or season limit during such day or season. However, any properly licensed person, or a person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such daily bag or season limit while hunting may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs or conducting drives if the weapon in his possession is an unloaded firearm, a bow without a nocked arrow or an unloaded crossbow. Any properly licensed person, or person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such season limit prior to commencement of the hunt may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives, provided he does not have a firearm, bow or crossbow in his possession.
- Hold in captivity any live wild birds or wild animals outside the limits allowed by regulations without a permit.
- Alter, change, borrow or lend a hunting license or permit.
- Use vehicles or possess firearms while retrieving dogs on private lands without permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive-head arrows.
- Possess or transport any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or the parts thereof, unless specifically allowed and only in accordance with regulations.
- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms, (i.e. machine guns).
- Sell or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof, except as specifically permitted by law.
- Virginia law specifies that it shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to knowingly and intentionally possess or transport any firearm. A muzzleloading firearm is considered a firearm under Virginia law. Any person prohibited from possessing, transporting, or carrying a firearm under this law may petition the circuit court of the jurisdiction in which he resides for a permit to possess or carry a firearm.
- Intentionally cripple or otherwise harm any game animal for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs. Upon treeing, baying, or otherwise containing an animal in a manner that offers the animal no avenue of escape, the person or the hunting party shall either 1.) harvest the animal if within a

legal take season and by using lawful methods of take or 2.) terminate the chase by retrieving the dogs and allowing the animal freedom to escape for the remainder of the same calendar day.

- Dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.
- Use radio tracking equipment, except on dogs or on raptors permitted by a falconry permit, to aid in the chase, harvest or capture of wildlife.

Plan Your Hunt, Hunt Your Plan. Tell Someone Where You Are Going.

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Laws

No ATV shall be operated:

- ◆ On any public highway, or other public property, except as authorized by proper authorities or to the extent necessary to cross a public highway by the most direct route.
- ◆ By any person under the age of 16, except that children between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate ATVs powered by engines of no less than 70 nor more than 90 cubic centimeters displacement.
- ◆ By any person unless he is wearing a protective helmet of a type approved by the Superintendent of State Police for use by motorcycle operators.
- ◆ On another person's property without the written consent of the owner of the property or as explicitly authorized by law.
- ◆ With a passenger at any time, unless vehicle is designed and equipped to be operated with more than one rider.
- ◆ The above does not apply to members of the household or employees of the owner or lessee of private property on which the ATV is operated.

Local Firearms Ordinances, Laws and Regulations

The following counties and cities have regulations concerning the use and transportation of firearms. The number or numbers following that county name indicate the regulations listed below for that particular county. In addition, certain counties have ordinances other than those listed, primarily pertaining to possession of firearms near parks or schools, hunting or discharging firearms near populated areas, residences, or buildings and age limitations for possession of loaded firearms on public roads. If a locality is not listed, state firearms restrictions apply (see Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment on page 21).

Accomack 43	Fairfax 2, 25, 45	Lancaster 6, 12, 26	Poquoson (city) 68, 69, 71, 72
Albemarle 16, 54	Fauquier 14, 18, 22, 36	Loudoun 22, 54, 62, 63,	Prince George 7, 9, 32, 42
Amherst 18	37, 54	64, 65	Prince William 2, 9, 12, 18
Arlington 59	Floyd 18	Louisa 4, 9, 17, 27	Rappahannock 18
Buckingham 7, 12, 60	Franklin 26	Lunenburg 17	Richmond 6, 7, 66, 67
Caroline 6, 17	Gate City 55	Madison 22, 25, 54	Richmond (city) 54
Campbell 11, 22	Gloucester 14	Mecklenburg 27	Roanoke 25, 54
Charles City 17, 51	Goochland 2, 9, 17, 23	Middlesex 26	Southampton 3, 8, 19, 41, 42
Chesapeake 29, 30, 46	Greensville 15, 21, 22	Nelson 22	Stafford 18, 54
Chesterfield 7, 14, 22,	Halifax 2, 33, 38, 61	New Kent 8, 12, 25, 54	Suffolk 44, 52
37, 54, 70	Hampton (city) 31, 45	Newport News 1	Surry 7, 53, 54
Clarke 25, 54	Hanover 7, 20, 46, 53	Northampton 7, 53	Sussex 7, 48, 73
Culpeper 18, 22, 54	Isle of Wight 8, 12, 35	Northumberland 9, 17, 26,	Virginia Beach 2, 7, 18, 54,
Cumberland 17, 27, 42, 60	James City 40, 54	42, 54	56, 57, 58
Danville 54	King George 6, 17, 22, 26, 54	Orange 18, 22, 34	Warren 54
Dinwiddie 12, 13, 42	King and Queen 39, 42	Petersburg 54	Westmoreland 24, 50
Essex 7, 42, 49	King William 10, 17, 18, 28	Pittsylvania 26	Williamsburg 1, 54
			York 46, 47

1. No discharge of firearms except on approved ranges.
2. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting.
3. Unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading shotgun loaded with slugs or sabot slugs.
4. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs.
6. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs outside of the regular hunting season.
7. No rifles for deer hunting.
8. No rifles for big game hunting.
9. No hunting with shotguns loaded with slugs.

10. No hunting of big game with shotguns loaded with slugs.
11. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm within the right-of-way of any primary or secondary highway.
12. It is lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for game animals in the regular hunting season.
13. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated 10 feet.
14. It is unlawful to hunt from the road with firearms.
16. It is unlawful to hunt within 50 feet of the road.
17. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized deer season where firearms are permitted.
18. It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm within 100 yds. of a road.
19. It is unlawful to transport, possess or carry a loaded rifle in any vehicle while on the road from October 1 through February 15.
20. It shall be unlawful to discharge or shoot any firearm or other weapon in or along any public road or street or within 100 yards thereof or within 100 yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling or place where the public gathers, not his own dwelling or residence.
21. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle on the road from October 1 through Feb. 15.
22. It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm on the road except when permission to hunt is obtained from landowners on each side.
23. It is unlawful to transport or possess loaded shotgun or loaded rifle on the road from sundown to sunrise.
24. No rifles over 22 caliber for hunting except for groundhogs between March 1 and August 31.
25. No hunting with firearms of game species from within 100 yds. of a road.
26. No hunting with firearms of any game animal from the road right of way.
27. No hunting with firearms from the road including ditch to ditch.
28. No hunting with a rifle larger than .22 caliber or shotgun slugs during the deer season.
29. When 100 yds. from a road and elevated from a stand 15 ft. above ground a rifle may be used to hunt big game east of the Dismal Swamp line.
30. It is unlawful to carry a loaded firearm on the road or on the right-of-way.
31. All hunting within the City of Hampton is prohibited, with the exception of shotgun hunting from a licensed blind. No shot larger than 00 buckshot may be used, and no shot shall be discharged landward within 500 feet of the shoreline.
32. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground; however, this requirement shall be expressly inapplicable to all legally handicapped persons.
33. The use of a muzzleloading rifle shall be permitted during the early muzzleloading season and during the entire regular firearm season for deer hunting.
34. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or rifle in a vehicle on a road during open deer season.
35. It shall be unlawful to possess outside of a vehicle, or shoot or hunt with a rifle, muzzleloader, pistol, or shotgun loaded with slugs, or to possess shotgun slugs on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area in Isle of Wight County. In addition, it shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm within 100 yards of the boardwalk or nature trail on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area.
36. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm from or across any sidewalk, highway or on public land.
37. It is unlawful for minors to carry firearms on public highways or public lands unless accompanied by certain adults.
38. It shall be unlawful to use any ammunition larger than .22 rim-fire while hunting, except rifles up to .25 may be used to hunt groundhogs from March 1 to September 1 with written permission from the landowner.
39. It shall be lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for deer and squirrels during the regular seasons.
40. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber, a muzzleloader larger than .36 caliber, or a shotgun loaded with slugs except from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground, except for groundhogs in certain areas between March 1 and September 1.
41. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle at any-time.
42. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rim-fire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31.
43. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within 50 feet of the center of any primary and secondary highway.
44. ***East of the Dismal Swamp Line*** (see page 6 for definition of line) Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, are permitted for big game hunting when used from stands elevated 15 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements); no special early or late muzzleloader seasons in effect.
West of the Dismal Swamp Line (see page 6 for definition of line) No rifles for big game hunting. However, when hunting from a stand 10 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements) muzzleloading rifles are lawful for game species during all open seasons, including special muzzle-loading deer seasons.
45. All rifles, pistols, or shotguns loaded with slugs prohibited for any hunting.
46. Discharging firearms or air-operated or gas-operated weapons prohibited within certain areas: check local county/city ordinances.
47. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 except on approved ranges.

48. Muzzleloading rifles permitted during the special muzzleloading season.
49. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized firearms season for the hunting of game animals except for the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season.
50. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt in the county with a shotgun loaded with slugs or a muzzleloading rifle other than during the prescribed open season for the hunting of big game species.
51. It shall be lawful to hunt deer with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire during the general firearms deer season provided that any such non-muzzleloading rifle may be used only from a height of 10 feet or more from the ground.
52. It shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm or air gun of .177 caliber or larger within any densely populated area; within 100 yards from any structure or within 100 yards from any public street, secondary road or highway within the city, except on a permitted firing range or at or upon the property of another without permission.
53. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles.
54. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle on any public street, road or highway.
55. It shall be unlawful for any person in the town, except a duly authorized officer in the course of his duty, to fire or discharge any gun, pistol or other firearms of any kind.
56. No discharge of firearms across or within 150 yards of any building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, public land, or public place.
57. No discharge of firearms north or west of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary; thence northwardly along North Landing Road; thence eastwardly along Indian River Road; thence northeastwardly along New Bridge Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean, or across any land north of False Cape Park and east of Shipp's Bay and Point Creek. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 south of this line except muzzleloading rifles may be used to hunt deer during the firearms deer season.
58. Shotguns firing pellets lawful on certain agricultural lands of fifty contiguous acres or more, and on certain lands south of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary, thence northeastwardly along Elbow Road; thence southeastwardly along Salem Road; thence northeastwardly along North Landstown Road; thence southeastwardly along Princess Anne Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean. The property must be permitted by the City Manager for this purpose.
59. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot off a firearm in the county. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot or throw any dangerous missiles by mechanical, explosive, air-or gas-propelled means, or similar method or device onto or across any public sidewalk, path, or roadway, at any public structure or building, or at or onto the property of another. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a compound bow, crossbow, longbow, or recurve bow at or upon the property of another without permission. It shall be unlawful to discharge a projectile from any of the aforementioned bows within 100 yards of any public road, public building or structure, private residence or structure, or property of another. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the use of firearms or other instruments or missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in lawful self defense or in the lawful defense of property, or to prohibit the use of firearms or other missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in supervised sport, recreation, or training conducted on safety-inspected and approved ranges and courses, provided the same is not contrary to existing law.
60. It is lawful to hunt deer with rifles from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground during the regular hunting season.
61. It is unlawful to hunt or attempt to hunt on a primary or secondary state maintained highway, and within the side ditches of such highways.
62. Discharging firearms is prohibited within certain areas (check local county ordinance for area description), except deer hunting is permitted with handguns, shotguns, or muzzleloading rifles using a single projectile and all other hunting is allowed with rifles of .22 caliber rimfire or less, handguns, shotguns, and muzzleloading rifles using single or multiple projectiles.
63. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 50 yards of a highway in the primary or secondary system of state roads.
64. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of any public park or school.
65. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission.
66. Muzzleloaders shall be legal firearms during any firearms season.
67. Shotgun slugs shall be permitted for deer hunting.
68. It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun, rifle, pistol, or firearm of any nature in any vehicle or on his person over, along or on any public street, road or highway in the city.
69. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge an air gun, spring gun or firearm from, along, across or toward, or within 300 yards of any paved public street, highway or road or any building in the city.
70. It shall be lawful to hunt game species with a muzzleloading rifle during the prescribed open seasons.
71. The discharge or use of a rifle, except for a .22 caliber rim fire is prohibited within the city limits.
72. The use of muzzleloading rifles during the prescribed open seasons for the hunting of game species is permitted in the city; provided, however, that the use of such muzzleloading rifle shall be only from a stand located at least 10 feet above the ground.
73. No rifles for turkey hunting.

Bear, Deer and Turkey Tag Validation and Checking Requirements

Validation of Bear, Deer and Turkey Tags

- All hunters killing a bear, deer, or turkey, unless the hunter is license exempt, are required to validate an appropriate tag on their bear-deer-turkey license (big game license), bonus deer permit, or special permit (DCAP, DMAP) at the place of kill prior to moving the animal in any way. To validate a tag, successful hunters must completely remove the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag. (See below)
- DO NOT detach license or permit tags to attach to the animal. Validation only requires the removal of the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to validate (notch) a bear, deer, or turkey tag from any license or special permit prior to the killing of an animal. A tag that is mistakenly validated (notched) prior to the killing of an animal must be immediately voided by the licensee or permittee by writing, in ink, the word "VOID" on the line provided on the tag.
- Hunters killing an elk are required to validate an appropriate deer tag.

How to Validate a Tag and Check Bear, Deer and Turkey

VA RESIDENT BEAR - DEER - TURKEY When moving game from place of kill, the tag must be notched in the designated area. Game must be checked at designated check stations. Deer and turkeys may be checked toll free 1-866-468-4263. A BIG GAME LICENSE ALSO REQUIRED	DO NO REMOVE 2006-07 DEER EITHER SEX X5200185200 Check Card or Confirmation Number
	DO NO REMOVE 2006-07 DEER EITHER SEX _____ Check Card or Confirmation Number
	DO NO REMOVE 2006-07 DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY _____ Check Card or Confirmation Number
	DO NO REMOVE 2006-07 DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY _____ Check Card or Confirmation Number
	DO NO REMOVE 2006-07 DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY _____ Check Card or Confirmation Number

1. Remove the designated notch area from the appropriate tag on your big game license prior to moving the animal in any way. **Do not remove the tag from your license.**
2. Check your deer or spring turkey by calling **1-866-468-4263** or take it to a check station. **Bears and fall turkeys must be checked at a check station.**
3. Write the check card number or the telephone confirmation number in ink on the license tag next to the notch.
4. You're done.

Checking Bear, Deer and Turkey

- Bear, deer and turkey must be checked by all successful hunters, including license exempt hunters, upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.
- All deer and spring turkeys must be checked at either a check station or by using the telephone checking system.
- All fall turkeys must be checked at a check station. Fall turkeys cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.
- All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Bears cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any bear, deer, or turkey until it is checked. After an appropriate tag has been validated (notched), successful bear, deer and elk hunters are allowed to dismember the carcass to pack it out from the place of kill as long as they do not destroy the identity of the sex and all the parts of the carcass (excluding internal organs) are present when the animal is checked.
- Deer checked by telephone, with the proper confirmation number, are eligible to be entered in the Eastern or Western Regional Big Game Contest or the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show.
- Spring turkey hunters who plan to enter a turkey in any big game or trophy contest that requires a certified weight of the turkey will need to check their turkey at a check station. These contests require a check card for all entries.
- Elk must be checked at a check station. Elk cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.

Check Stations for Bear, Deer and Turkey

- **Check station locations are listed on the Department Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov** or call a Department Office listed on page 2 of this digest.
- Hunters checking bear, deer, elk and turkeys at a check station will be given a check card furnished by the Department. The successful hunter shall then immediately write the check card number, in ink, on the line labeled “check card or confirmation number” of the tag that was validated (notched) at the place of kill.
- Black bears must be checked at an official bear check station. One or more bear check stations have been established in 72 counties or cities (see page 30). The location of these bear check stations can be obtained from any check station, game warden, or Department office. In counties without established bear check stations, successful hunters may transport their kill to a bear check station in an adjoining county that has an established bear check station and also may have their bear checked by a game warden or by Wildlife Division staff. Department staff may be contacted by calling the VDGIF radio dispatcher (Richmond, 804-367-1258) or nearest Department office. The successful bear hunter shall surrender, or allow to be removed, one premolar tooth from the carcass. Also the check station operator shall permanently affix a seal, furnished by the Department, to the carcass. Bear check station locations are also listed on the Department Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.
- The check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed.
- If the carcass of an animal that was checked at a check station is left unattended, the check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

Telephone Checking System for Deer and Spring Turkey 1-866-GOT-GAME

- Only deer (except elk) and spring turkeys may be checked using the telephone checking system.
- Successful hunters can check their kill by calling a toll-free number 1-866-GOT-GAME (468-4263). Only touch-tone phones may be used (rotary phones will not work).
- Before calling the system, you will need your big game license, a pen and a piece of paper to record your confirmation number. If you are exempt from purchasing a big game license, you will need your driver's license number or your social security number.
- Follow the instructions and provide the requested information using the buttons on a touch-tone phone.
- As the telephone call is completed, you will be given a confirmation number. Write it down. Licensed hunters must then immediately write this confirmation number, in ink, on the line labeled “check card or confirmation number” of the tag that was validated (notched) at the place of kill. **When using the telephone checking system, be sure the confirmation number is a letter followed by ten digits. If your call is cut off or your confirmation number is not complete, call back and repeat steps until the complete confirmation number is obtained.**

Telephone Check Card

- If the kill is reported using the telephone checking system by a hunter who validated a tag, no telephone check card is required as long as the hunter is in possession of the carcass. However, if the carcass is transferred to the possession of another individual or left unattended, a telephone check card (see example below) must be created and kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the telephone check card must be securely attached to the carcass.
- If the kill is reported using the telephone checking system by a hunter who is license exempt (for example, a landowner who did not have a license tag to validate at the place of kill), the successful hunter must create a telephone check card (see example below). This written documentation must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the telephone check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

Example of a Telephone Check Card

An animal reported using the telephone checking system will require the creation of a telephone check card if:

1. The hunter is license exempt.
2. The carcass is transferred to someone else.
3. The carcass is left unattended.

The telephone check card may be written on any type of paper using a pen and must include the hunter's full name, date of kill and the telephone confirmation number.

John W. Doe
November 21, 2006
X5200185200

Big Game Hunting Seasons

Bear

Bag Limits:

One per license year, at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight (all internal organs removed). Females with cubs may not be harvested.

Archery Bear Season

October 14–November 11 : Statewide

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Archery license required.
- Archery tackle only (includes longbows, recurve, compound bows and crossbows).
- Arrowhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- Unlawful to use arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added or explosive head arrows.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- Unlawful to use dogs.

Muzzeloading Bear Season

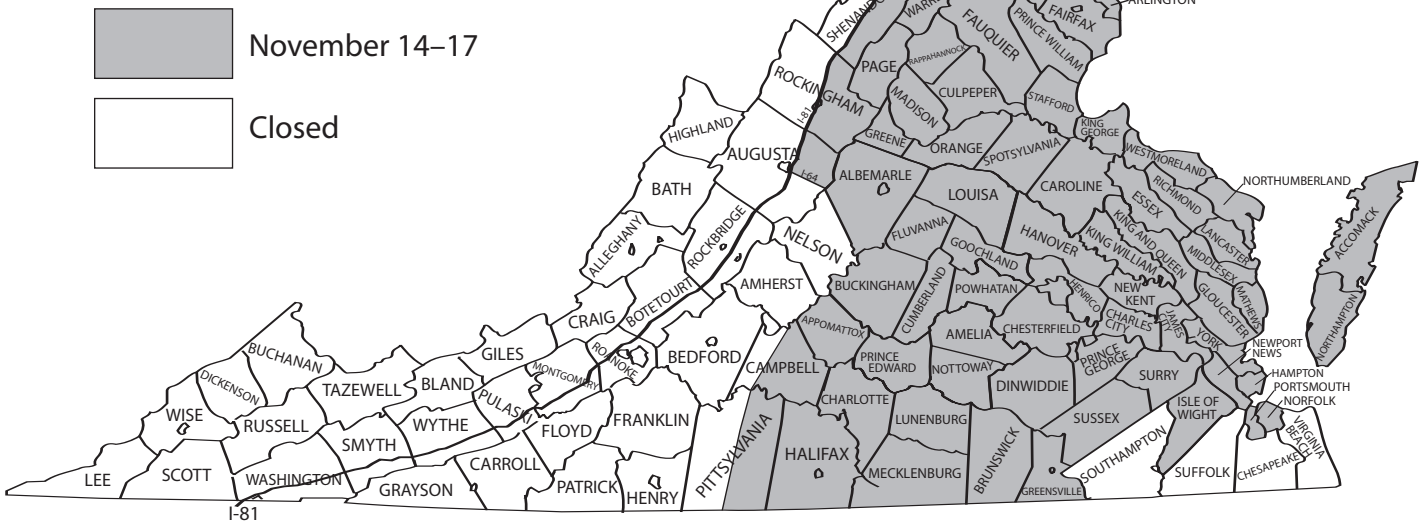
November 14–17: Certain counties, see map below

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Muzzleloading license required.
- Muzzleloading firearms only (see Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23).
- Muzzleloading guns must be single shot flintlock or percussion ignition, excluding muzzleloading pistols.
- Must be .45 caliber or larger.
- Scopes are permitted.
- Must be able to fire only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger projectile).
- Must be loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- Unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- Unlawful to hunt bear with dogs.
- Unlawful to use muzzleloading pistols.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading weapons designed for it. **Never use smokeless powder of any type in any quantity in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.**

Muzzleloading Bear Season



Firearms Bear Season

December 4–16

In the counties of Buchanan, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Henry, Lee, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81), Roanoke (south of I-81), Russell, Scott, Smyth (south of I-81), Tazewell (north of Rt. 19 and west of Rt. 16), Washington (south of I-81 or west of Rt. 19), Wise and Wythe (south of I-81), and on the Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas).

November 27–January 6.

In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Culpeper, Craig, Giles Greene, Highland, Madison, Montgomery (north of I-81), Nelson, Page, Pulaski (north of I-81), Rappahannock, Roanoke (north of I-81), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Smyth (north of I-81), Tazewell (south of Rt. 19 or east of Rt. 16), Warren, Washington (that part north of I-81 which is east of Rt. 19), Wythe (north of I-81).

Exception

- Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas (see December 4-16 season)

November 6–January 6

In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

Closed

In the counties of Accomack, Amelia, Appomattox, Arlington, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield,

Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Gloucester, Goochland, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Pittsylvania (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Richmond, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, York and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk and Portsmouth.

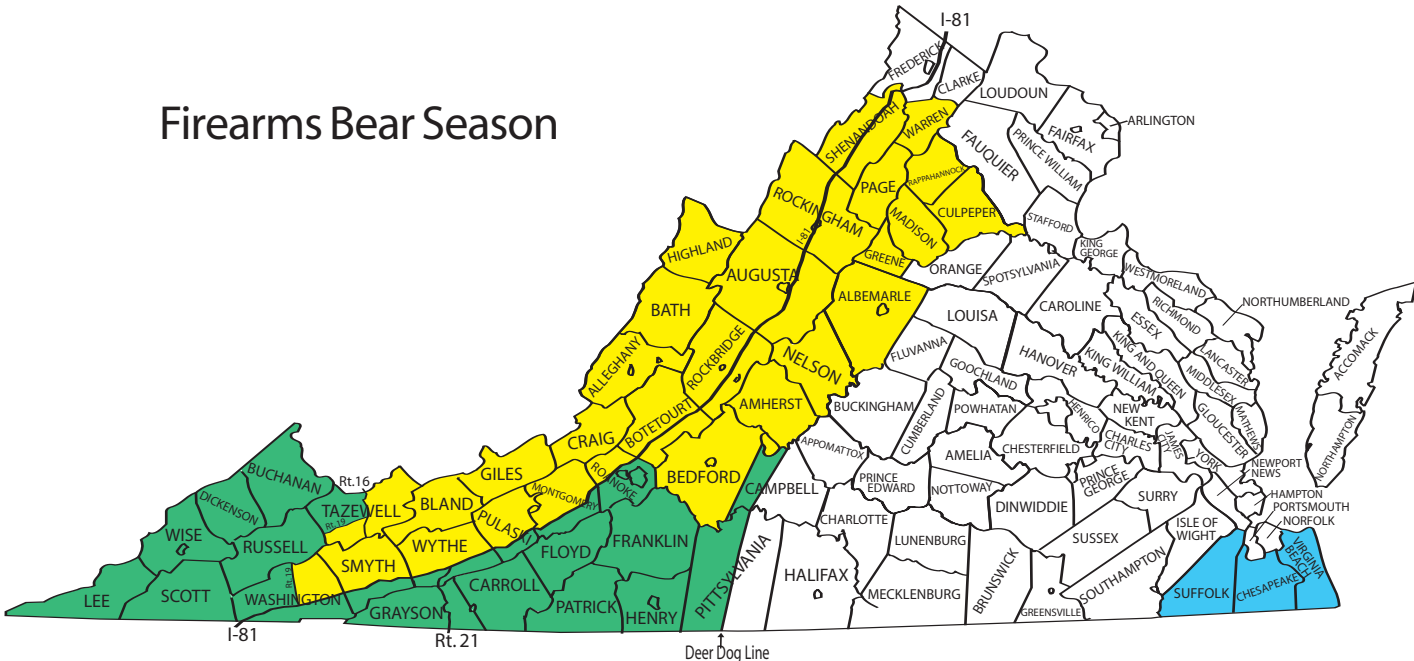
Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle (includes longbows, recurve, compound bows and crossbows)
- Muzzleloading firearms

See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Bear:

- During the firearms deer season in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- During the first 12 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.
- In the counties of Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll (east of the New River), Floyd, Franklin, Grayson (east of the New River), Henry, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81) Roanoke (south of I-81) and Wythe (south of I-81, east of Rt. 21, north and east of Cripple Creek and southeast of the New River).
- When hunting during the archery or muzzleloading bear seasons.



All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Locations for bear check stations are available on the VDGIF Web site or by calling 1-804-367-1000. Bears cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.



With Bear Check Stations

Without Bear Check Stations

Map of Virginia counties showing the distribution of bear check stations. The map is shaded to indicate which counties have bear check stations (gray) and which do not (white). The legend shows that counties with bear check stations are shaded gray, while counties without are white. The map shows that bear check stations are present in a large majority of Virginia's counties, particularly in the western and central regions.

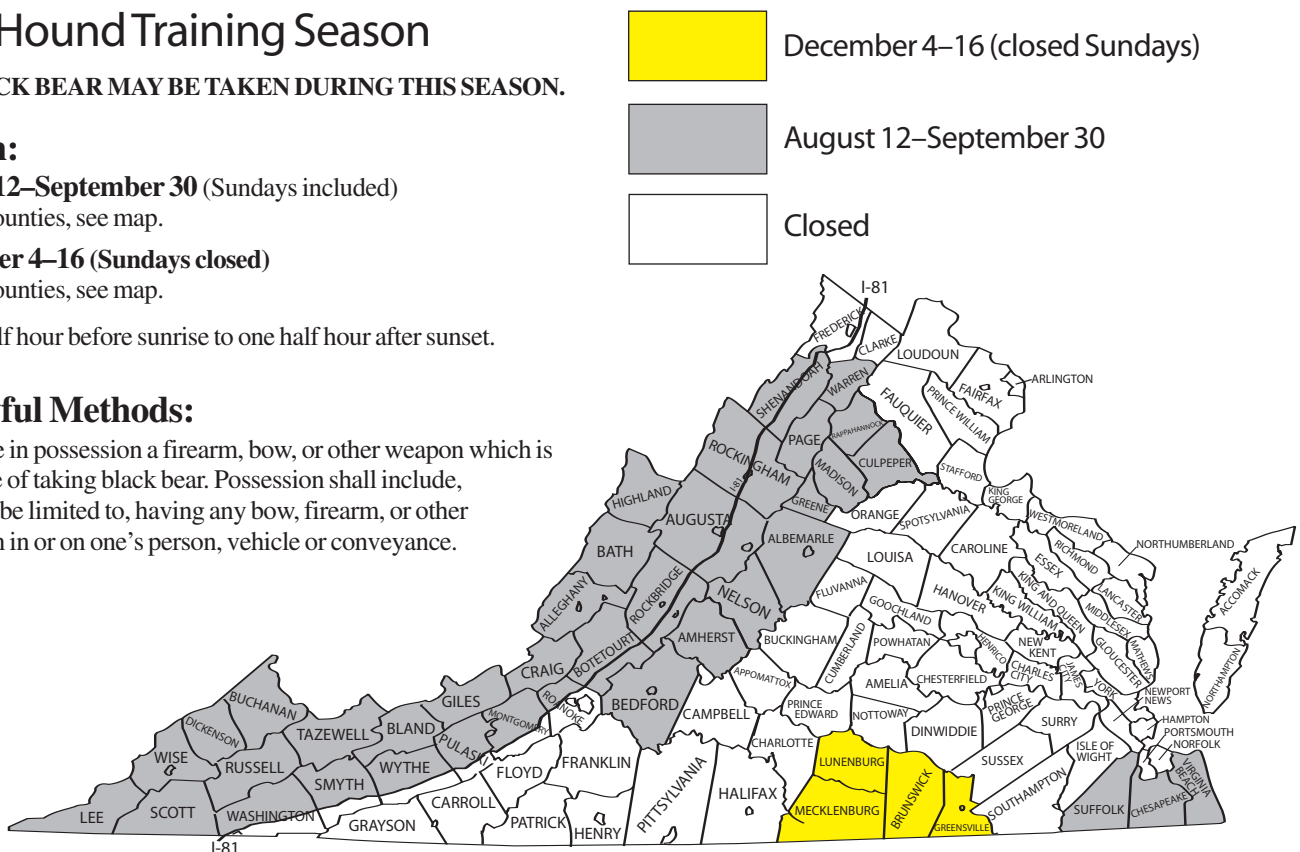
NO BLACK BEAR MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON.

August 12–September 30 (Sundays included)
Certain counties, see map.

December 4–16 (Sundays closed)
Certain counties, see map.

- One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

- To have in possession a firearm, bow, or other weapon which is capable of taking black bear. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow, firearm, or other weapon in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.



Deer

General Information

Do Not Feed Deer

A new regulation makes it illegal to place or distribute food, salt or minerals to feed or attract deer from September 1 through January 6, statewide. This prohibition does not include the planting of agronomic crops or wildlife food plots.

Bag Limits:

East of the Blue Ridge (except on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties)

The bag limit for deer shall be two a day, six a license year. Of the six deer limit, no more than three may be antlered deer and at least three must be antlerless deer.

West of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties

The bag limit for deer shall be one a day and five a license year. Of the five deer limit, no more than two may be antlered deer and at least three must be antlerless deer.

- Only one antlered deer may be taken during the early muzzleloading season per muzzleloader hunter.
- If a hunter kills two antlered deer **in Shenandoah County**, at least one of the antlered deer must have at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on one side.

Bag Limit Exceptions

- Deer hunters, including those exempt from purchasing a license, on private land and authorized public lands may take more than the license-year bag limit by using bonus deer permits or special permits (DCAP and DMAP). See Bonus Deer Permits box on this page
- DCAP and DMAP tags do not count against the daily or season bag limit. However, only two DCAP or DMAP tags may be used per deer hunter per day. See page 53.

Bonus Deer Permits

- ◆ Are valid for antlerless deer only.
- ◆ Are not restricted to the number that may be purchased and used.
- ◆ Allow deer to be taken in addition to the license year bag limit.
- ◆ Do not allow daily bag limit to be exceeded.
- ◆ Are valid only on private lands and authorized public lands.
- ◆ Are not valid on National Forest and Department-owned lands.
- ◆ Are not valid in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.
- ◆ Are valid during the archery, muzzleloading, and firearms deer seasons.
- ◆ Are valid only on designated either-sex deer hunting days.

Deer Facts

- ◆ The breeding season or “rut” as it is commonly called for whitetails, begins in September and terminates by January over much of North American.
- ◆ In Virginia, the peak of the rut typically occurs just after mid-November over most of the state and possibly a little earlier as you move east.
- ◆ Conception data for Virginia whitetails indicates that the majority of does are bred in a 2-week period.
- ◆ The gestation period for white-tailed deer averages about 200 days.
- ◆ In Virginia, the majority of fawns are born in early June.
- ◆ Healthy adult female deer will generally give birth to two fawns annually. Triplet fawns are rare, and quadruplets have been documented.



©Dwight Dyke

Hunters using tree stands should follow these basic safety guidelines:

- ◆ Use a harness or safety belt to secure yourself to the tree.
- ◆ Never climb with equipment; use a haul line to get your unloaded gun or bow into and out of the tree stand.
- ◆ Keep portable tree stands in good working condition and thoroughly inspect permanent tree stands for loose or rotten boards before using.
- ◆ Stay alert and awake. If you start to nod off, get back to the ground.

Antlered and Antlerless Deer

Deer Tags

- **Either-sex deer tags** (commonly called “buck” tags) may be used on antlered or antlerless deer.
- **Antlerless only deer tags** (commonly called “doe” tags) may only be used on antlerless deer.

Antlered and Antlerless Deer

Antlered Deer

- Antlered deer must have antlers visible above the hairline. Virginia does not have a minimum antler length requirement. See page 33.
- An antlered deer must be tagged with an either-sex deer tag.

Antlerless Deer

- Antlerless deer may only be taken during designated either-sex deer hunting days during the archery season(s), muzzleloading season(s), and firearms season. Youth deer hunters see Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation provisions below.
- Antlerless deer (does, button bucks, and shed-antlered bucks) may be tagged with an either-sex deer tag or an antlerless only deer tag.
- Button bucks, male fawns approximately six months old, are considered antlerless deer. The hair covered bumps on a button buck’s head are not antlers. They are the pedicels from which the antlers will grow the next year. See page 33.
- Antlered deer that have shed their antlers, usually in late December or early January, are also considered antlerless deer. See page 33.

Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation

Deer hunters 15 years of age and under, resident or nonresident, may take one antlerless deer per license year on days other than designated either-sex deer hunting days during the muzzleloading season(s) or the firearms season in all counties that have at least one either-sex deer hunting day during the firearms deer season. This regulation applies to all public lands (national forest lands, state forests, wildlife management areas, etc.) open to deer hunting except those in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.

Deer Antlers

- ◆ Buck antlers are true bone that grows from pedicels on the frontal bones of the skull.
- ◆ Annual antler growth generally begins in mid March to April.
- ◆ A buck’s first set of antlers grows during his yearling spring and summer (e.g., at 1-1/2 years-of-age).
- ◆ The growing bone is full of blood vessels and nerves and is covered with hairy skin called “velvet.”
- ◆ Growth continues through August or September. The bone then hardens, and the velvet dries up and falls off.
- ◆ Most antlered bucks in Virginia are in hard polished antler by September 15th.
- ◆ By late December or early January, the antlers fall off in response to changes in day length and decreasing testosterone levels.

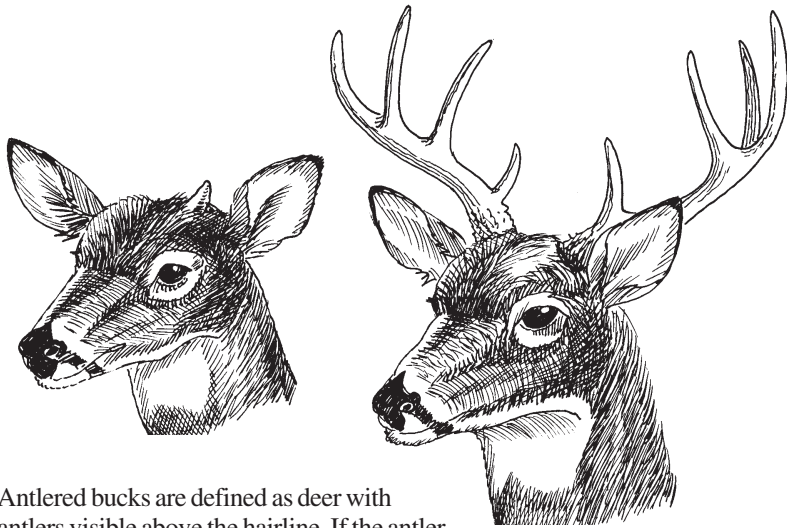
**Don’t Make a
Mistake.
Be Sure of Your
Target And Beyond.**



Participants from the Tidewater area gather for youth deer hunt; ©Dwight Dyke.

Antlered or Antlerless?

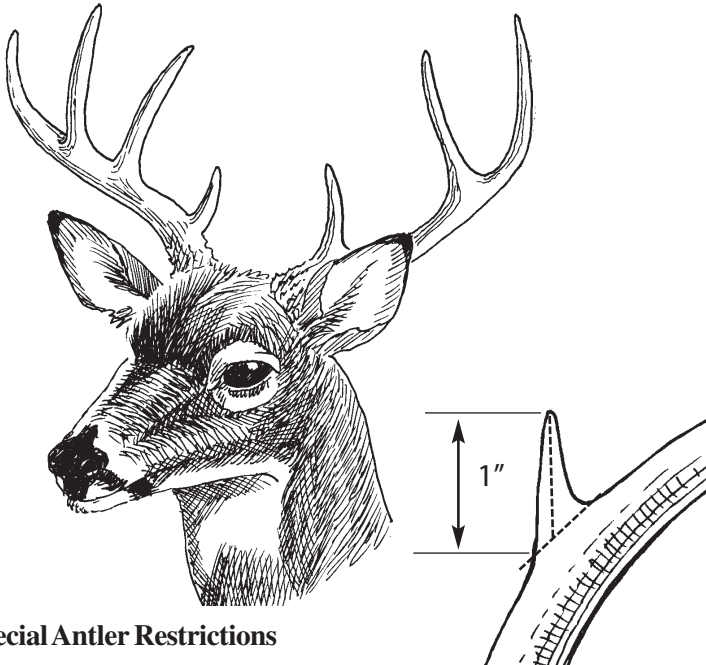
Hunters are sometimes confused about whether a deer they killed should be tagged with an either sex tag (commonly called a “buck tag”) or an antlerless only deer tag. This confusion often occurs when the antler is barely visible or the pedicels are visible.



Antlered bucks are defined as deer with antlers visible above the hairline. If the antler is breaking the skin and protruding above the hairline the deer is considered an antlered deer and must be tagged with an either sex deer tag.



Shed Bucks are often harvested late in the season. These are bucks that have dropped their antlers and only the pedicel or bony base is left on the skull and is usually flush with the hairline. A shed buck is an antlerless deer and is tagged with an either-sex deer tag or an antlerless deer tag.



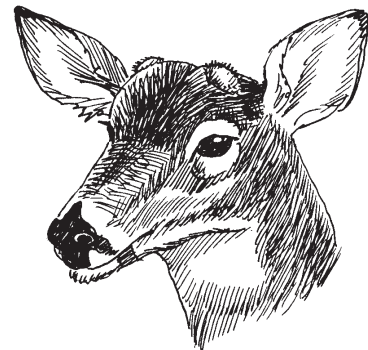
Special Antler Restrictions

Shenandoah County

If a hunter kills two bucks in Shenandoah County, at least one of the bucks must have at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on one side.

Fairystone and Featherfin WMAs

On the Quality Deer Management Area of the Fairystone WMA and Featherfin WMA a legal buck is a deer with at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on either the right or left antler.



Button bucks or a male deer fawns will have bumps or knobs, known as the pedicels, where the antlers will grow but the bumps or knobs do not break the skin or protrude above the skin. The skin is covering the entire pedicel. These look like buttons on the deer's head thus the term button bucks. Button bucks are considered antlerless deer and are tagged with an either-sex deer tag or an antlerless deer tag.

©illustrations by Spike Knuth

Archery Deer Seasons

Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunting

- Deer of either sex may be taken full season during all archery seasons, unless otherwise noted below.
- Only antlered deer may be taken during the early and late archery deer seasons on PALS (Public Access Lands) in Dickenson County.

Early Archery Season:

October 7–November 17: Statewide

Late Archery Seasons:

December 4–January 6:

- In all areas west of the Blue Ridge (except Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick County).
- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- On the Chester F. Phelps WMA and on National Forest lands in Frederick County.

December 1–January 6:

- In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

December 18–January 6:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).

Muzzleloader Deer Season

Early Muzzleloader Season East of the Blue Ridge (except on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties)

November 4–17:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted east of the Blue Ridge unless noted in the season exceptions listed below.

Season Exceptions:

- National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties (see the November 11–17 season).
- Closed in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

November 4–17 (full season):

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below and on Oconeechee State Park.

November 11:

- On State Forest lands, State Park lands (except Oconeechee State Park), Department-owned lands, and the Philpott Reservoir.

Early Muzzleloader Season West of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties

November 11–17:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted west of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties.

- **Antlered Deer Restriction:**

- Only one antlered deer may be taken per muzzleloader hunter during this season.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

November 13:

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

November 11–17 (full season):

- In Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick, Roanoke and Warren counties.

- **Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:**

- In Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties and on portions of Grayson Highlands State Park and National Forest lands in Grayson County.

Late Muzzleloader Season:

December 16–January 6:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted **west of the Blue Ridge** (except Clarke County and on private lands in Frederick County).

- **East of the Blue Ridge** in the counties (including cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).



©Dwight Dyke

Urban Archery Deer Seasons:

September 16–October 6 and January 8–March 31

- Within the incorporated limits of the cities of Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Franklin, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Radford, Richmond, Winchester and the towns of Altavista, Amherst, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Farmville, Independence, Rocky Mount, Tazewell, West Point and in Fairfax County.
- **During these seasons only antlerless deer may be taken.**
- Lists of properties available for hunting *are not* maintained by the Department or local governments.
- Go to www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/special_urban_archery.html for local restrictions and other urban archery information.

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Archery Deer Seasons:

- Archery and/or Crossbow License required.
- Archery tackle only
- Crossbows are legal. See page 21
- Arrowhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- It is unlawful to use arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive head arrows.
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- It is unlawful to use dogs.

- On National Forest lands in Frederick County.
- In the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

• **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

January 1–6:

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

December 16–January 6 (full season):

- In the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29, except on National Forest lands), Bedford (except on National Forest lands), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Rt. 151, except on National Forest lands), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and on private lands in Roanoke and Warren counties.

January 6:

- In the counties of Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington.

Antlered deer only–no either-sex deer hunting days:

- In Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.

Muzzleloading Either-sex Deer Hunting for Incorporated Cities and Towns:

Deer of either sex may be taken full season during all muzzleloading seasons within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting (except in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach).

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Muzzleloading Deer Seasons:

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinance, pg. 23 for details.

- Muzzleloading License required.
- Muzzleloading firearms only (see Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23).
- Muzzleloading guns must be single shot flintlock or percussion ignition, excluding muzzleloading pistols.
- Must be .45 caliber or larger.
- Scopes permitted.
- Must be able to fire only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger projectile).
- Must be loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading weapons designed for it. **Never use smokeless powder of any type, in any quantity, in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.**
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- Unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs.
- Unlawful to use muzzleloading pistols.

Firearms Either-sex Deer Hunting For Incorporated Cities and Towns

November 18–December 2: In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll, Grayson, Montgomery, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Roanoke, Shenandoah, and Warren.

– On National Forest lands in Shenandoah and Warren and on portions of Grayson Highlands State Park and National Forest lands in Grayson.

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise.

- In all areas. Only antlered deer may be taken during the firearms season in these counties.

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Accomack, Clarke, Fauquier (see season exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Frederick (see season exception for National Forest lands below), Greensville, Isle of Wight, Loudoun, Northampton, Prince William, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and York.

- In Arlington County, City of Hampton, and City of Richmond (archery only). *Note:* Local Ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in these areas. (See Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23).
- In the cities of Lynchburg (on private lands for which a special permit has been issued by the Chief of Police) and Newport News.
- To firearms deer hunt on private lands in Fairfax County a special landowner permit is required. Contact the Div. of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details. No special police permit is required for archery deer hunting.

- On the Carlisle Tract of the Hog Island WMA and Ragged Island WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

November 18–December 2 firearms season on the C.F. Phelps WMA and National Forests lands in Frederick.

- On the C.F. Phelps WMA.





November 18–December 16:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- November 18–December 16 (full season):**

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- November 25 and December 11–16:**

- On Fairystone Farms WMA, Fairystone State Park, and Philpott Reservoir.

- November 25 and December 15–16:**

- On Turkeycock Mountain WMA.



November 18–December 2:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Alleghany, Bath, Highland, Lee, Page, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- November 25 and December 1–2:**

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- November 25 and December 2:**

- On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Bath and Highland, on National Forest lands in Alleghany, Page, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington, and on the Clinch Mountain WMA and Hidden Valley WMA.

- Antlered deer only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**

- On National Forest lands in Lee. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.



November 18–January 6:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Caroline, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Goochland (west of U.S. Route 522), King George, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, and Prince George.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- November 25, December 2 and January 1–6:**

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- November 25:**

- On the Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland, and Prince Edward State Forests.



October 2–November 30:

In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line) and Virginia Beach.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- October 7 and November 24–30:**

- In the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

- October 7, 14 and November 24–30:**

- In the city of Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line)



November 18–January 6:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Charles City, Essex, Goochland (east of U.S. Route 522), Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, James City, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Pittsylvania (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Westmoreland and in the City of Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp line).

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days**

- November 25, December 2, and December 25–January 6:**

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- November 25 and January 6:**

- On the White Oak Mountain WMA.

- Antlered deer only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**

- On the Chickahominy WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.



November 18–December 2:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Augusta, Bland, Craig, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Scott, and Wythe.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- November 25–December 2:**

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- November 25 and December 1–2:**

- On National Forest lands in Bland, Craig, Giles, Pulaski and Wythe.

- November 25 and December 2:**

- On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Augusta and Rockbridge and on National Forest lands in Rockingham.

- Antlered deer only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**

- On National Forest lands in Scott. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.



November 18–January 6:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Albemarle, Amherst (east of Rt. 29), Campbell (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Culpeper (see season exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Gloucester, Greene, Lancaster, Madison, Nelson (east of Rt. 151), Northumberland, Orange, Rappahannock, Richmond, Spotsylvania, and Stafford.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- November 25, December 2 and December 9–January 6:**

- In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- November 25 and January 1–6:**

- On James River WMA.

Season Exception:

November 18–December 2 firearms season on the C.F. Phelps WMA.

- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**

- November 25:**

- On the C.F. Phelps WMA.

Special Late Antlerless-Only Firearms Deer Season

January 8, 2007– February 3, 2007:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William.

- To firearms deer hunt on private lands in Fairfax County a special landowner permit is required. Contact the Div. of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details. No special police permit is required for archery deer hunting.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
During this season only antlerless deer may be taken.

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Firearms Deer Seasons:

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinance, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Hunters are allowed to use archery tackle (includes longbow, recurve, compound bow and crossbow) or muzzleloading firearms to deer hunt during the firearms deer season with the following conditions:
 - all hunters are required to comply with the either-sex deer hunting days for the firearms deer season.
 - use of muzzleloading firearms is allowed only if not otherwise restricted (see local firearms ordinances).
 - muzzleloader deer hunters must wear blaze orange during the firearms deer season.
 - archery deer hunters must wear blaze orange during the firearms deer season except when hunting in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited (see local firearms ordinances).

Dogs May Not Be Used For Deer Hunting:

- West of the Blue Ridge.
- East of the Blue Ridge in Bedford, Fairfax, Franklin, Henry Loudoun, Northampton, and Patrick counties, and Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the city of Lynchburg.
- Statewide when hunting during archery and muzzleloading deer seasons.
- On many military areas. Check individual Post regulations.
- On Amelia, Featherfin, Pettigrew, C.F. Phelps, and G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Areas.
- During the first 12 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.

Elk

- Elk of either sex, antlered or antlerless, may be taken during any open deer season using the weapons legal for deer during that season.
- The taking of an elk counts towards the hunter's daily and license year bag limit for deer.
- Licenses, tag validation, and checking requirements for elk are the same for deer except that **elk must be checked at a check station.**
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any harvested elk until checked. Elk may be dismembered to pack it out from the place of kill. The identity of the sex and all parts of the carcass must be present when the elk is checked.

Successful elk hunters are asked to contact the Wildlife Division of the Department's Marion Regional Office at (276)-783-4860 as soon as possible after killing an elk so that arrangements can be made to collect Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples. CWD testing is voluntary.

2006 Virginia Big Game Contest

**Eastern Regional
September 9–10, 2006
Southampton County Fairgrounds
Franklin**

**State Championship and
Western Regional
September 23–24, 2006
Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Harrisonburg**

For additional information and directions go to
www.vpsa.org or www.iwla-rh.org

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association and the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chapter Izaak Walton League of America.

Deer checked by telephone, with the proper confirmation number, are eligible to be entered in the Eastern or Western Regional Big Game Contest.

Turkey

Bag Limits:

General: One per day, three per license year, no more than two of which may be taken in the fall.

Archery and Fall Firearms Season: Turkeys of either sex may be taken.

Spring Gobbler Season: One per day, bearded turkeys only.

Archery Turkey Season

October 7–November 11: Statewide

- Except in counties where there is a closed firearm season on turkey.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Archery and/or crossbow license required.
- Crossbow is legal to use by any hunter,(see page 21 for details).
- Archery tackle only.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Arrowhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery tackle during the archery season.

Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons

 **October 28–November 10,
November 23 and
December 11–January 6.**


In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Goochland, Grayson, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Highland, King and Queen, King William, Lee, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince William, Pulaski, Rapahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise, and Wythe and on Camp Peary.

 **October 28–November 10 and
November 23.**

In the counties of Buchanan, Isle of Wight, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex.

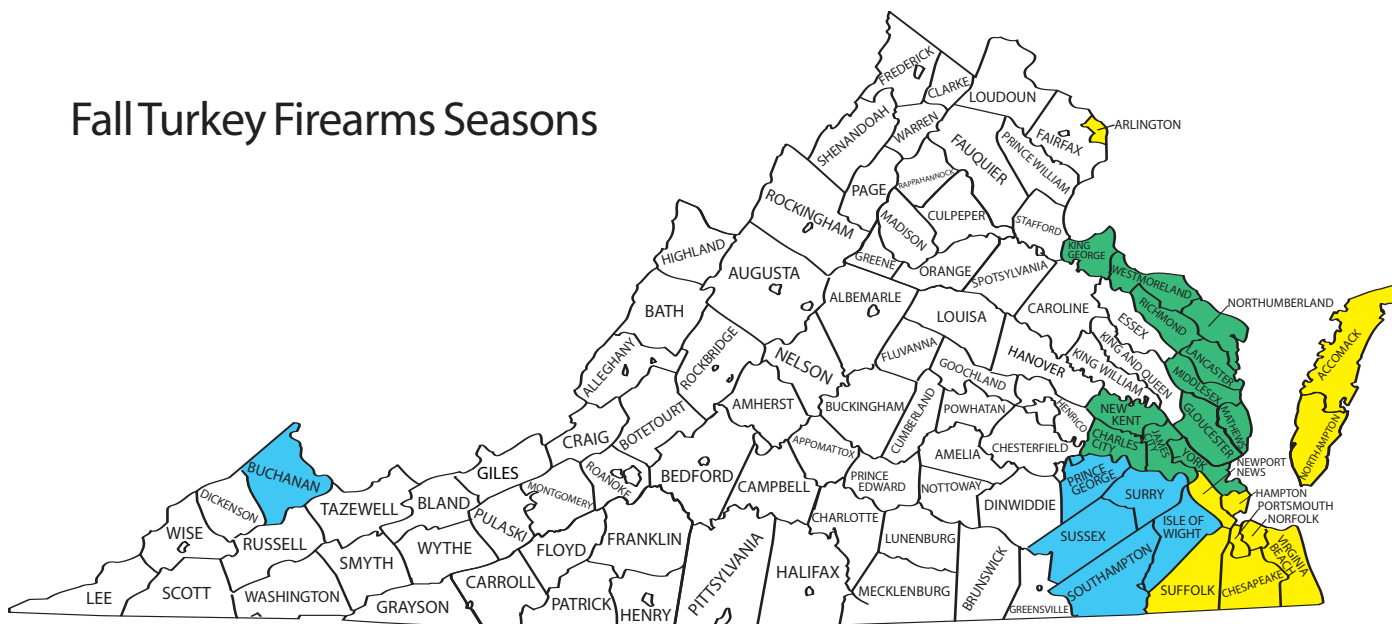
 **October 28–November 10,
November 23 and December 11–23.**

In the counties of Charles City, Gloucester, James City, King George, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, and York (except on Camp Peary).

 **Closed.**
In the counties of Accomack, Arlington, and Northampton and in the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

continued on page 40

Fall Turkey Firearms Seasons



Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Decoys, blinds, and dogs may be used
- Unlawful to use electronic calls

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details)



©Bill Lea

Spring Gobbler Season

Bag Limit:

One per day, bearded turkeys only. Hunters may take one, two or three bearded turkeys depending on how many turkeys were taken in the fall season.

Seasons: Statewide

April 14–May 5:

- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon each day.

May 7-May 19:

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

April 7: Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

- One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.
- Youth hunters (resident or nonresident) must be 15 years of age or younger to participate.
- Youth hunters between the age of 12 and 15 must have appropriate valid hunting licenses (see pages 8-9). Hunters under the age of 12 are not required to have a license, but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult.
- All youth must be accompanied and directly supervised and within sight of an adult. Adult hunters accompanying youth must possess a valid Virginia hunting license (or be exempt from purchasing a hunting license); may assist with calling; and shall not carry or discharge a firearm.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Decoys and blinds may be used
- Unlawful to use electronic calls
- Unlawful to use dogs during spring gobbler season
- Unlawful to use or have in possession any shot larger than number 2 fine shot during spring gobbler season

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg.23 for details.)



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Small Game Hunting Seasons

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Dogs may be used by regulation (see Hunting with Dogs, pg. 20)
- Electronic calls

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms pg.23 for details)

Crow

Season:

August 19–March 17 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday only.

Crows are a federally regulated migratory species, no HIP number is required to hunt them. Crow hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday only).

Groundhog

Season:

Continuous open season on private lands. Groundhog hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during time periods when it is legal to hunt spring turkeys.

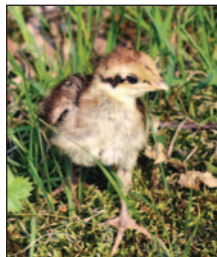
Grouse

Bag Limit:

Three per day.

Season:

October 28–February 10 west of I-95
Continuous closed season east of I-95



Tom Allen

Grouse Facts

- ◆ Average grouse clutch size is 9.9 eggs.
- ◆ Grouse incubation begins about May 1.
- ◆ Adult females begin to nest earlier than juvenile female birds.
- ◆ Predation and weather can affect the success or failure of grouse nests.
- ◆ Normally about 66% of grouse nests are successful.
- ◆ Of those that fail in their first nesting about 23% will attempt a second nest.

Quail and Pheasant

Bag Limits:

Quail: six per day

Pheasant: no daily or seasonal bag limit

Season:

November 11–January 31

Rabbit

Bag Limit:

Six per day

Season:

November 4–February 14.

Squirrel (Gray, Red, and Fox*)

*Fox squirrels open only in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Loudoun, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock during any authorized squirrel season.

Bag Limit:

All squirrels combined - six per day.

Seasons:

September 2–January 31: statewide

New for 2007

June 2–23, 2007 (Only on specific wildlife management areas listed below).

Amelia, Big Survey, Briery Creek, Chickahominy, Dick Cross, Dismal Swamp, Fairystone (including Fairystone State Park and Philpott Reservoir), Goshen, Havens, Hog Island (Carlisle Tract only), Horsepen, James River, Pettigrew, Phelps, Powhatan, Thompson, Turkeycock Mountain, and White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Areas.

- Fox squirrels may only be harvested on Big Survey, Goshen, Havens, Phelps and Thompson Wildlife Management Areas.
- Hunting squirrels with dogs is not allowed during the June season.

Shooting Preserves

Pen-raised game birds may be taken on licensed shooting preserves from September 1 through April 30. A list of operated shooting preserves open to the public may be obtained from the Permits Section at the Department's Richmond office (804-367-1000) or at www.dgif.virginia.gov. A state resident hunting pen-raised game birds on a licensed shooting preserve is required to have either a state or county resident hunting license. A nonresident is required to have either a state nonresident license (\$80.00) or a special nonresident shooting preserve license (\$12.00) which is valid only within the boundaries of licensed shooting preserves.

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Dogs may be used by regulation (see Hunting with Dogs, pg. 20)
- Electronic calls

(See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms pg.23 for details)

Bobcat

Bag Limit:

Two per hunting party taken between noon one day and noon the following day. Season bag limit shall be 12 bobcats in the aggregate, taken by hunting and trapping combined.

Archery

Season:

October 7 – 31: statewide

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting with bow and arrow or cross-bow during the bobcat archery season.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession. See exception for concealed handguns on page 21.

Firearms

Season:

November 1–February 28: statewide

Dogs May Not Be Used:

To hunt bobcat during deer season

- In the counties of Alleghany, Amherst (west of Route 29), Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Page, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

Tagging Requirement

No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Coyote

Season:

Continuous open season on private lands. Coyote hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during time periods when it is legal to hunt spring turkeys.

Coyote Bounty Law

While coyotes are not protected, live coyotes may not be imported or possessed in Virginia. Counties have the option of establishing their own coyote bounty system. For more information, hunters and trappers should contact their County Administrator or County Board of Supervisors.

Fox

Hunting With Dogs and Firearms

Season:

November 1–February 28. Closed in Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier (except Quantico), Loudoun, Louisa, and Rappahannock counties.

Dogs May Not Be Used:

To hunt foxes during deer season

- On the Gathright, Goshen, Highland and Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Areas and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

Hunting With Dogs Only

Continuous open season statewide; closed February 1–October 31 on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests and on Gathright, Goshen, G. Richard Thompson, Highland, Little North Mountain, and Rapidan WMAs.

Restrictions:

- To have in possession a firearm when hunting fox outside of the dog and gun fox season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any firearm in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance.

Electronic Calls

Unlawful to take or attempt to take wild animals and wild birds with recorded or electrically amplified calls, except for bobcat, coyote, crow and fox. Electronic calls may be used to take bobcats, foxes and coyotes on private lands with written permission of landowner and on public lands except National Forests. Use of a light is permitted as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle.

Opossum

Season:

October 16–March 10: statewide

Skunk

Season:

Continuous open season to take striped skunk on private lands. Striped skunk hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during time periods when it is legal to hunt spring turkeys. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunks and the pelts of spotted skunks may not be sold.



©Bill Lea

Raccoon

Legal Methods and Restrictions:

- Unlawful to have in possession a firearm, bow, axe, or any tree climbing device when chasing raccoons outside of the firearms season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having these devices in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance while engaged in the act of chasing.

Chase Only

NO RACCOON MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON

Season:

Continuous open season in all counties and portions of counties east of Rt. 29 and in the counties of Loudoun (east of Rt. 15) and Prince William (east of Rt. 15).

August 1–May 31 On private lands in all counties and portions of counties west of Route 29 and in the counties of Loudoun (west of Rt. 15) and Prince William (west of Rt. 15) **and on** Fairstone Farms, G. Richard Thompson, Rapidan and Turkeycock Wildlife Management Areas.

Firearms

Season:


October 16–March 10: statewide

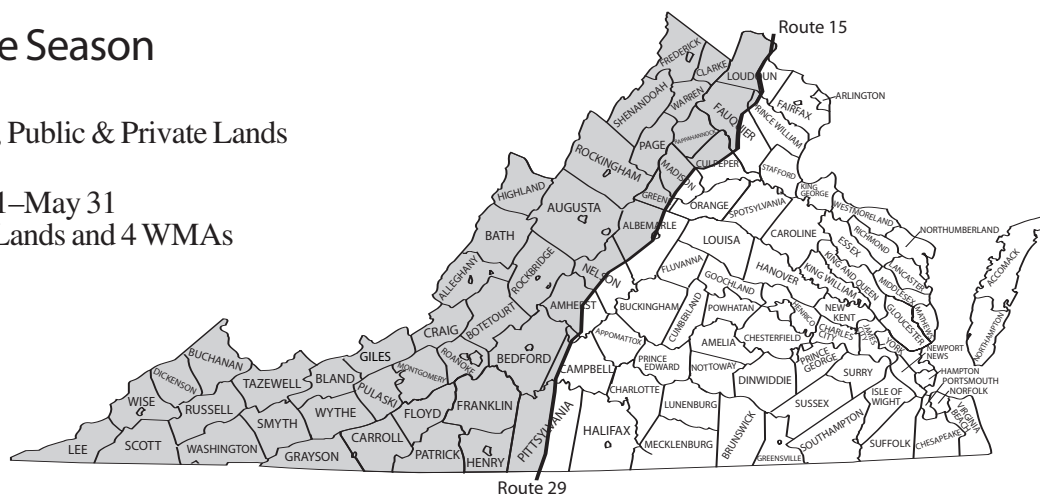
Bag Limit:

East of the Blue Ridge: Two per hunter taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

West of the Blue Ridge: Two per hunting party (individual or organized) taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

Raccoon Chase Season

-  All Year, Public & Private Lands
-  August 1–May 31 Private Lands and 4 WMAs



Furbearer Trapping Seasons

General Regulations

Residents under 16 years of age do not need a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid state or county license to trap. Trappers using box traps for rabbits do not need a license, but permission of the landowner is necessary. County residents 65 years of age and over do not need a license to trap on private property in county of residence. National Forest lands will be open during the regular trapping seasons. Trappers must visit all traps once each day to remove all animals caught therein. Check local ordinances before trapping near highways.

Trapping on Department-owned or controlled lands and waters is allowed under the regulations of the Board unless prohibited by posted rules. The posted rules may require written authorization to trap on some areas or may specify other restrictions.

It is lawful to set traps in water from December 1 through the last day of February, both dates inclusive, and at anytime within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York, except as otherwise specifically provided by department permit or by local ordinances.

Any person setting or in possession of a steel leghold or body gripping trap or snare shall have it marked by means of a nonferrous metal tag bearing his name and address. This requirement shall not apply to landowners on their own land, nor to a bonafide tenant or lessee within the bounds of land rented or leased by him, nor to anyone transporting any such trap from its place of purchase.

The use of body gripping traps with a jaw spread in excess of 7 1/2 inches is prohibited except when such traps are covered by water.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any body gripping trap with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches when using any bait, lure or scent. However, baited body gripping traps with a jaw spread between 5 and 6 1/2 inches may be used within an enclosure with openings no greater than 60 square inches and the trap trigger recessed at least 12 inches from all openings (see diagram below). Traps must be staked to prevent enclosures from turning over and

may only be used on private lands with written permission of the landowner.

No deadfalls or snares, except that on land snares with loops less than 12 inches in diameter with the top of the snare loop not more than 12 inches above the ground may be used on private lands with written permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any steel leghold trap with teeth set upon the jaws or with a jaw spread exceeding 6 1/2 inches.

It is unlawful to willfully molest, damage, or remove any trap, or any lawfully caught bird or animal therefrom or in any way disturb traps or snares legally set by another person.

No trapping within 50 feet of a highway in Clarke, Fauquier, and Loudoun counties.

No trapping of furbearing animals within 300 yards of First Landing/Seashore State Park and the Virginia Marine Science Museum in the City of Virginia Beach.

Trapping Seasons

There is a continuous open season to trap beaver, muskrat, opossum and raccoon within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

Beaver

December 1–February 28

Bobcat

November 15–February 28

Bag limit: The season bag limit shall be 12 bobcats in the aggregate, taken by hunting and trapping combined.

No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded, or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Coyote

Continuous open season.

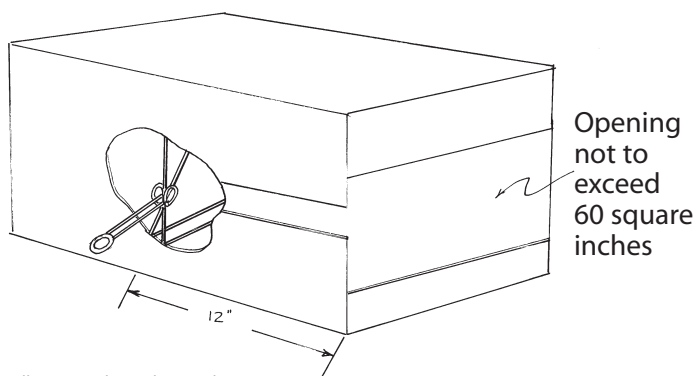
Fox

November 15–February 28

Fox trapping is prohibited in Clarke (except on G. Richard Thompson WMA), Fauquier (except on Chester F. Phelps WMA and G. Richard Thompson WMA), Loudoun, and Rappahannock counties.

Mink

December 1–February 28



©illustration by Spike Knuth

Muskrat

December 1–February 28.

Nutria

Continuous open season

Opossum

November 15–February 28

Rabbit

May be taken with box traps from October 15–January 31 provided no traps shall be set on the lands of another without written permission of the landowner.

Raccoon

November 15–February 28

Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunk. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunk and the pelts of spotted skunk may not be sold.

Weasel

December 1–February 28

Otter

December 1–February 28

in all counties east of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Augusta, Alleghany, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge and Wythe.

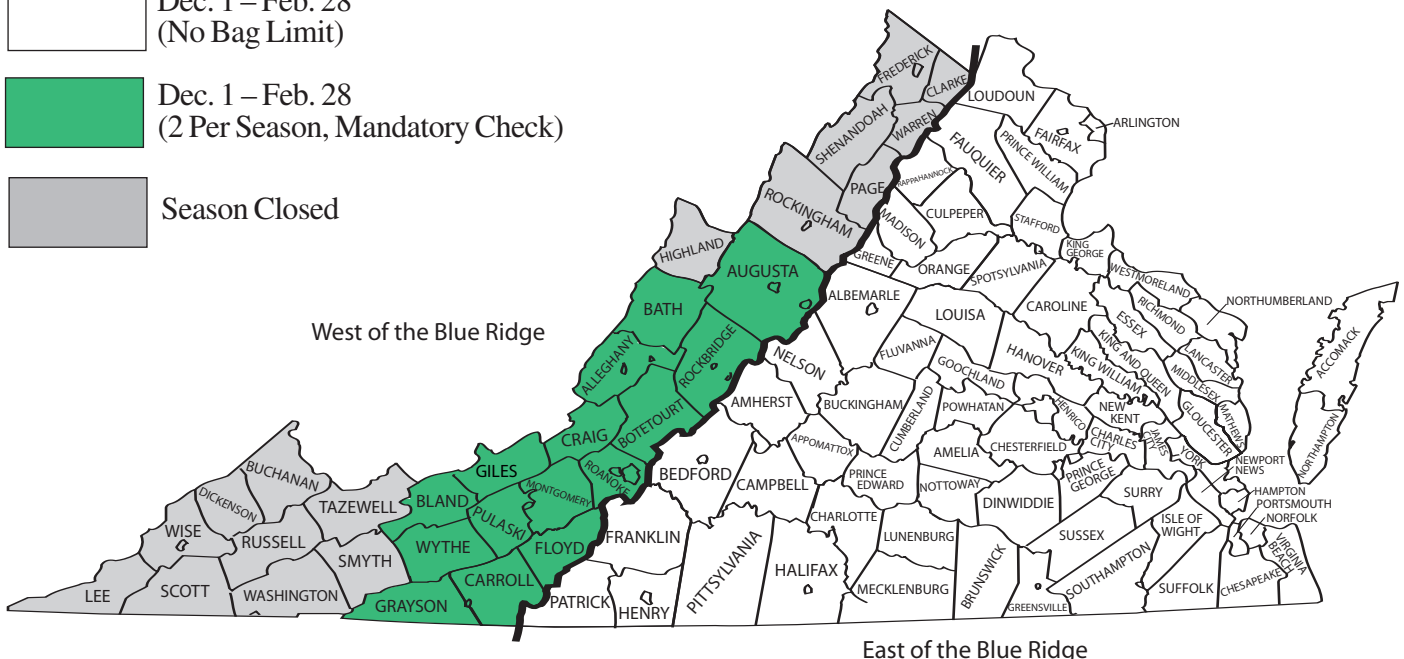
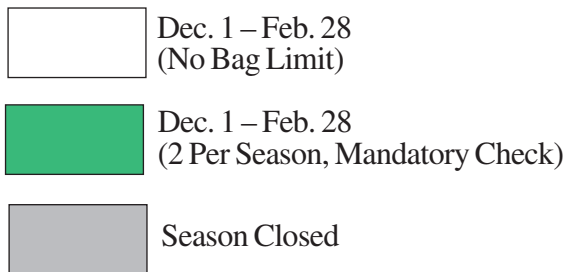
Bag Limit

The season bag limit shall be 2 otters in counties west of the Blue Ridge where otter trapping is permitted. There is no season bag limit in counties east of the Blue Ridge.

Mandatory Check-in Requirements

The entire skinned carcass of all otters trapped in counties west of the Blue Ridge where trapping is permitted must be presented to an agent of the Department within 3 days of capture. For more information on submitting otter carcasses contact your nearest regional office listed on page 2.

Otter Trapping Season



Tagging Requirement

No otter pelts may be sold, traded or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All otter pelts must be sealed by April 1.

July 2006 - June 2007

July 2006						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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October 2006						
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29	30	31				

November 2006						
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December 2006						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

January 2007						
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28	29	30	31			

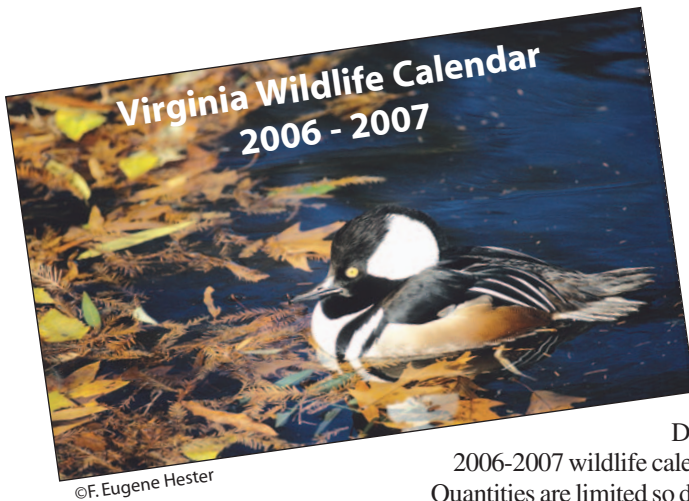
February 2007						
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25	26	27	28			

March 2007						
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April 2007						
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28	29	30				

May 2007						
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June 2007						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



The New 2006-2007 Virginia Wildlife Calendar Is Now Available!

It's time again to purchase your copy of the 2006-2007 Virginia Wildlife Calendar, one of the most informative and beautiful wildlife calendars in the country. No other calendar will give you the best times to go fishing and hunting, unique natural resource information that will amaze and educate you, and spectacular wildlife photographs that give you an up-close look at Virginia's incredible wildlife.

The Virginia Wildlife Calendar is a production of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Customers should note that the 2006-2007 wildlife calendar starts in September 2006 and will run through December 2007. Quantities are limited so don't wait—order now!

The 2006-2007 Virginia Wildlife Calendars are \$10.00 each. Make check payable to: *Treasurer of Virginia* and send to Virginia Wildlife Calendar, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA. 23230-1104. If you would like to use your VISA or MasterCard you can order online at www.dgif.virginia.gov. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Hunting and Trapping Annual 2006-2007



©artwork by Spike Knuth

From Jamestown to Now—400 Years of Change

by David Coffman, Sportsman's Education Coordinator with information
compiled by Mike Fies, Furbearer Project Leader and Matt Knox, Deer Project Leader

When the colonists first arrived at Jamestown Island in 1607, they were met with a great wilderness of abundant wildlife. Early accounts reported, “the woods were full of deer and a great variety of excellent fowl, such as wild turkey, pigeons, partridges and pheasant.” As explorers journeyed into the mountains, they wrote that bears were more common than deer and their most abundant source of meat. Elk and buffalo roamed the Shenandoah Valley. Wolves were so numerous in Tidewater that the first game law enacted in Virginia in 1632 was designed to control their numbers. Colonist recorded that, “turkeys were so abundant that a hunter could go into the forest and kill one whenever the need occurred and there was no need to domesticate them.” Squirrels were plentiful due to vast forests of large mast-producing trees and were heavily used by farm families as a valuable source of meat.

Within days of arriving in Jamestown, the colonists started clearing the land and planting fields. They relied heavily on game animals for food and clothing as did the Native American tribes for centuries before the Europeans arrived. Historical records show that the game supply rapidly diminished after the arrival of the colonists. In addition to using wildlife for food, larger species were also shot for their hides. Between 1698 and 1715, approximately 14,000 deer hides were exported to Europe. Market hunting further depleted deer herds from an estimated 400,000 animals in 1607, to 25,000 in 1930.

Bounties were established on bears for depredating livestock, and they were shot and trapped by any means possible. Wolves became a menace to the colonists, drawn to the villages by the smell of garbage and skinned animals. Likewise, cougars competed with the colonists for game and were destroyed. The buffalo were gone by 1797, elk by 1855. Beavers, the most important fur bearers during colonial times, were quickly trapped out in much of Virginia.

By the early 1900s, many of the game species that are abundant today were on the verge of extinction. The decimation of so many wildlife species could no longer be ignored and the conservation movement was born. In 1916, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was created for protecting, propagating, and preserving all wild animals in the state. The recovery of many of our prized game species did not come about by chance, for it was the

sportsmen that fought and paid for conservation, protection and management. In partnership with dedicated, responsible sportsmen, natural resource conservation agencies have led the way in restoring our wildlife resources.

Patrick Henry advised, “I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future, but by the past.” A review of the controversial practices, regulation milestones and scientific management innovations pioneered by Virginians during the past 400 years of history gives us guidance to make future decisions to meet the needs and enrich the lives of future generations. As you read the articles in this Annual featuring deer, turkey, bear and other game, note the controversies and misuse in the past that were resolved using scientific management based on experience that led to our current regulations and relative abundance of game.

As we celebrate our successes, we continue to research and develop programs to manage increasing conflicts between wildlife and people. The decline of bobwhites, rabbits and other species has raised the concerns over cumulative detrimental effects of abundant predators, increased use of pesticides, habitat loss, changing agricultural practices and social pressures. With a growing population and subsequent loss of habitat, the future of wildlife and the sportsmen who strive to conserve them are possibly in jeopardy. With cooperation, support and dedication to a common conservation ethic, together we can develop a successful future by learning and applying the lessons from past experience.

As you hunt with family and friends, or in solitude this season, take a moment to imagine Captain John Smith and Pocahontas looking over your shoulder and wonder if they would be impressed with how we are conserving our “common wealth.” Also think of your grandparents who, at the turn of the 20th century, did not have deer, bear or turkey to hunt because of exploitation and how dedicated sportsmen restored a conservation ethic. Finally, think of what you can do and commit yourself to passing on our rich hunting heritage to our children and theirs. Hunting is a valuable management tool and your support is critical to preserving this legacy.

Be safe, be responsible and have a rewarding hunting and trapping season.

What Are These Abundance Maps and What Do They Mean?

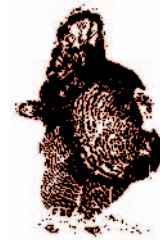
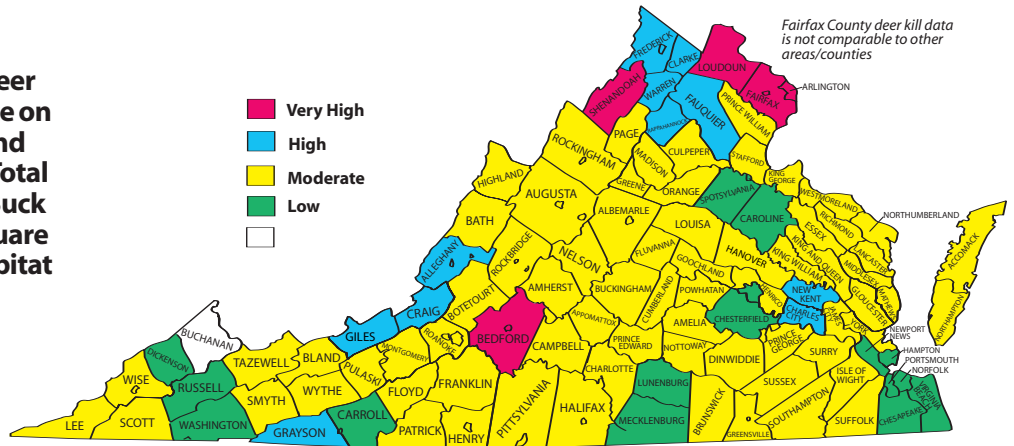
Each year when the annual deer, bear, and turkey kill data become available, newspapers across the Commonwealth publish a list of the “Top 10” counties based on the total harvests in each county; many hunters automatically assume that the “Top 10” counties must be the best places to hunt. This can be misleading. The fact is, total kill numbers may be a poor way to compare game populations and hunter success among counties. For example, Pittsylvania County deer hunters routinely kill about 4,400 deer each year. Because Clarke County deer hunters only kill about 1,740 each year, Pittsylvania County must be a better deer hunting area than Clarke County, correct? That is incorrect. While the total deer kill is much higher

in Pittsylvania County (the largest county in the state) than in Clarke (one of the smallest), the deer kill per square mile of habitat is actually much higher in Clarke County, resulting in Clarke County being a better deer hunting area than Pittsylvania County.

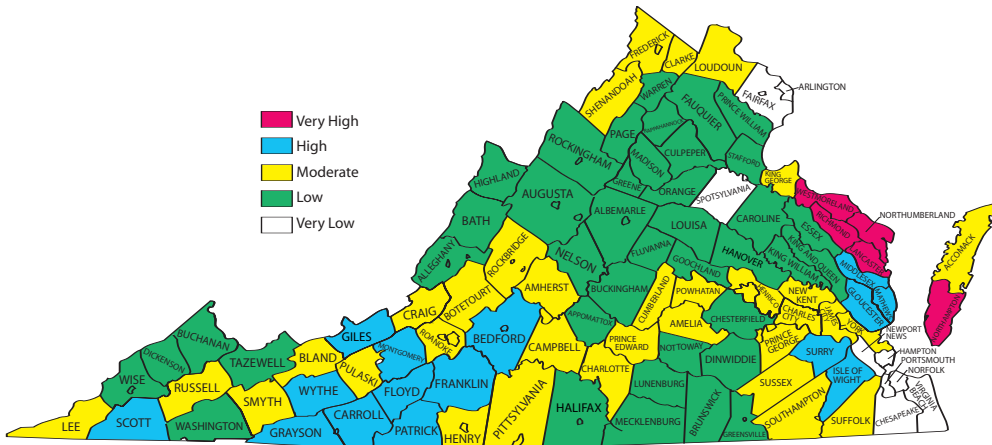
The best way to compare populations and hunting potential among areas is based on the kill per square mile of habitat. The following maps show the relative differences among counties in the kill per square mile of deer (antlered bucks), bears, and turkeys (spring gobblers). These maps also indicate the relative densities of deer, bears, and turkeys among counties across Virginia.



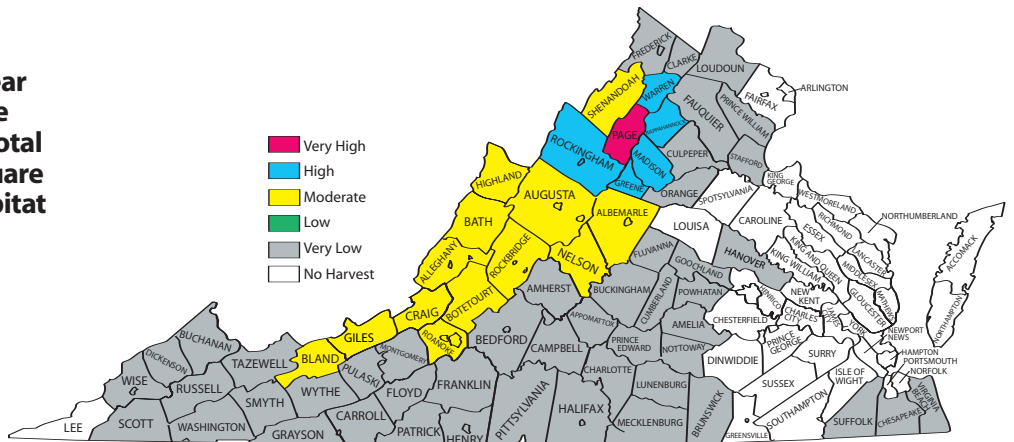
Relative Deer Abundance on Private Land Based on Total Antlered Buck Kill Per Square Mile of Habitat



Relative Turkey Abundance Based on Spring Kill per Square Mile of Habitat



Relative Bear Abundance Based on Total Kill per Square Mile of Habitat





©Lynda Richardson

Black Bear

by Denny Martin
Bear Project Leader

Black bears were abundant and occurred throughout pre-colonial Virginia. Prior to European settlement, Native Americans throughout the southeastern United States used bears for food, clothing, weapons, and ornaments. Skins of bear were used for heavy winter robes, moccasins, and bed covering. Excellent bow-strings were fashioned from bear gut. Specific portions of the bear hide were used to create flintlock rifle ammunition pouches for frontiersmen. Teeth and claws served as ornaments or tools. Frontiersmen considered bear meat to be the best, with raccoon a close second. Bears were also an important source of fat which was used as butter, body oil, and hair oil. Most of the paint pigments used by Indians were mixed with bear fat. One 400-pound bear yielded 18 gallons of oil in 1878.

Following European colonization, bear populations suffered dramatic declines due to habitat loss, over harvest, and market hunting. The first recorded description of black bears in the southeastern United States came from the Roanoke Island Colony of North Carolina during the 1580s. Found in all regions of Virginia, bears were abundant in the vicinity of Jamestown when settlers arrived in 1607. Even by 1739, bears were primarily found in the western mountains and eastern swamp areas of Virginia. By 1836, bears were nearly absent from most of the Tidewater and Piedmont areas of Virginia, but still were plentiful in the mountains and in the Dismal Swamp. During the mid-1800s, bearskins and meat still were commonly shipped to markets from the rail yards at Staunton. Bounties, offered since the American Revolution, provided added incentive for the demise of bear populations in Virginia. Typical agricultural practices further reduced habitat for bears during the late 1800s and early 1900s and involved extensive deforestation, burning, grazing, and cultivation. Large areas of forested lands were stripped during the 1800s to support iron smelting furnaces and the lumber industry. Introduced around 1900, the narrow gauge railroad also accelerated the removal of timber from the southern Appalachians.

By 1900, bear populations reached their lowest point, probably extirpated throughout much of Virginia. During the early 1900's, public and political concern for bears and other wildlife resulted in hunting controls, elimination of wildlife markets, increased law enforcement, habitat restoration, and restocking. The creation of the Virginia Game Commission (now the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) in 1916 began the modern era of wildlife management and conservation. During the mid-1950s, Virginia's bear population was estimated to have an average density of about 25 bears per 100 square miles of occupied range. Today, densities as high as 300 bears per 100 square miles have been observed in some areas. Statewide, the current bear population has been increasing at a rate of about 6-8% annually.

The trend in bear harvest closely reflects the trend in population changes. Black bear harvest data have been collected since 1928 and mandatory bear kill registration has been required since 1947. Specially designated bear check stations were created in 1991; today some 130 bear check stations are found across the state. In addition to recording the usual harvest data (e.g., sex, weapon, location), a small premolar tooth is extracted from each bear for age determination and a wire and tyvek seal is installed in the bear's nose to complete the checking process.

Unlawful to Feed

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, minerals, carrion, or similar substances to feed or attract bear. Nor, upon written notification by department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, mineral, carrion or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the presence of bear in such numbers or circumstances to cause annoyance or inconvenience to any person, cause property damage, or endanger any person or wildlife.

Population trends also are determined by computer modeling programs which use age and sex information from bear check stations. These models clearly show that bear populations are growing in most areas of the state. Similar trends are occurring throughout the eastern United States. Hunting season changes in 1974 were probably important factors stimulating the bear population growth we've experienced over the last 3 decades. Except for a few areas on the Middle Peninsula and the Eastern Shore, bears can be found throughout the Commonwealth today.

During the 2005-2006 hunting season, hunters reported killing 1,439 black bears for Virginia's second highest annual harvest. The total included 870 males (60%) and 569 females (40%). This harvest was 27% greater than last year's harvest of 1,130 and 5% lower than the record kill of 1,511 that occurred during 2003-04.

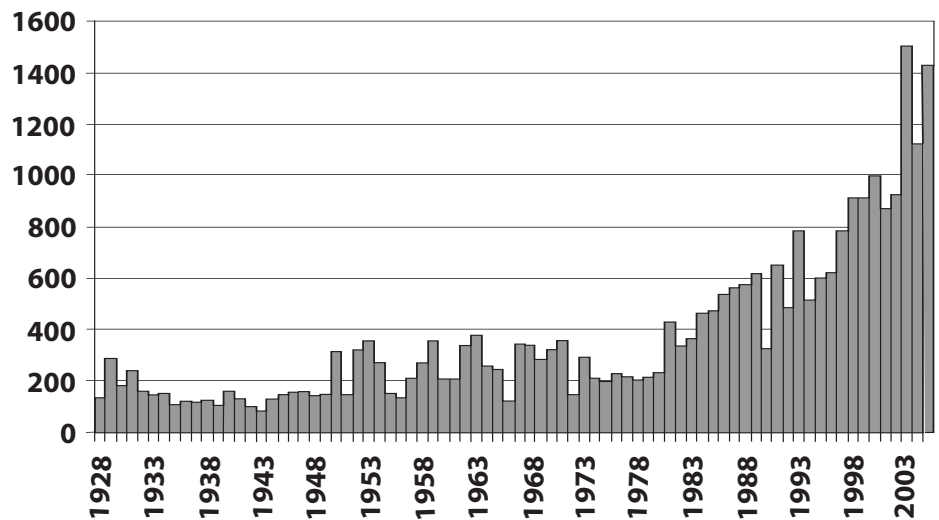
The archery harvest of 311 bears (or 22% of the total harvest) was an increase of 52% from the previous year's harvest of 205. At 22%, the archery portion of the total harvest was slightly greater than the 35-year average of 17%.

The 4-day muzzleloading season produced 147 bears (10% of the total harvest) and was an increase of 59% over the previous year. The regular firearms harvest totaled 983 bears. Prior to the dog-hunting season, firearms hunters during the second week of deer-gun season killed 268 bears (or 19% of total harvest; the long-term average is 30% of the total harvest). This 2005-06 no-dog harvest (268) was 13% lower than last year's harvest of 308. A total of 673 bears (or 47% of the total harvest) was harvested during the dog hunting / hound season. This was nearly equal to the long-term proportion of bears typically killed during the hound season. The total dog-season harvest was 36% higher than the 2004-05 kill of 526 bears.

Bear harvests west and east of the Blue Ridge Mountains were 1,090 (up 24% from the last season) and 349 (up 39%), respectively. The 8 counties that contain the Shenandoah National Park produced 40% (577 bears) of the total bear kill, an increase of 24% over the 2004-05 season. Similar to the 2004-05 bear hunting season, 7% (97 bears) of the statewide kill came from areas of the state that were newly opened to bear hunting in 2003; the traditionally hunted areas of the mountains in western Virginia and around the Dismal Swamp accounted for 93% of the total harvest (1,342 bears). Hunting continues to be the most valuable tool for managing Virginia's growing black bear population.

Black bear management throughout the United States is becoming increasingly complex with the profusion of contentious issues surrounding bear hunting, human-bear problems, bear habitat conservation, and trade in bear parts. Diverse values and opinions associated with black bears provide unique management challenges for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Virginia Black Bear Management Plan provides a roadmap of goals, objectives and strategies to meet current bear management

Virginia Black Bear Harvest 1928 - Present



challenges. The management plan can be found at:

http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/va_game_wildlife/management_plans/bear/index.html

In addition to the guidance provided by the Black Bear Management Plan, an active research program in Virginia has ensured that management decisions are based on the best available science. Research on black bears in Virginia began about 1950. Cooperating with Virginia Tech, several research studies have focused on the bear populations of Shenandoah National Park and Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Other important studies have investigated the success of relocating problem bears to restore bear populations and a comprehensive population ecology study of bears in the Alleghany Mountains. The long-term Cooperative Alleghany Bear Study (CABS) of the hunted bear population began in 1994; a final report is now being completed. The CABS work involved trapping, tagging and installing transmitters on many of the nearly 2,000 bears handled in two study areas. Researchers followed bear movements and inspected dens. Several bear monitoring systems were evaluated during the study. Early results have revealed that (1) a large majority of Virginia bears use hollow trees as denning sites, (2) cubs are born on or about January 17, (3) average litter sizes are 2.5 cubs born in alternate years, (4) female bears have much higher survival than male bears, (5) compared to older male bears, young males (3 years old or younger) have the lowest survival rates, and (6) mast production heavily influences both cub production and cub survival. The most pronounced effect of a mast failure is the initiation of reproductive synchrony among females (female bears usually have cubs every other year). Because most female bears fail to have cubs during the winter following a mast failure, reproductive synchrony happens when all females have cubs the following year (the second winter after a mast failure). When mast conditions are normal, there is no synchronization among females with half of the female bears producing cubs every year.

White-tailed Deer

by
Matt Knox, Deer Project Leader
and
Nelson Lafon, Assistant Deer Project Leader

Public attention to white-tailed deer is arguably greater than the interest exhibited for any other species of wildlife in Virginia. As Virginia's most popular game species, white-tailed deer produce a broad range of public feelings. These sentiments vary from welcomed public viewing and deer hunting opportunities to serious damage and public safety concerns. The divergent citizen interests associated with white-tailed deer provide unique management challenges for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The overall mission of the deer program is to manage the deer resource in the best long-term interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is truer of deer than any other wildlife species that all Virginians have a stake in the Department's deer management programs.

White-tailed deer in Virginia have a remarkable and interesting history. When the first European settlers arrived in North America in 1607 at Jamestown Island, Virginia, they described an animal in abundance, which would become commonly known as the Virginia white-tailed deer.

Following colonization, Virginia's deer population began to decline. In 1699, to address declining deer herds, Virginia was one of the first colonies to set a closed season for hunting deer. Virginia's deer herd reached its lowest point during the early 1900's. By 1900, the deer herd in nearly all of Virginia's Mountain and Piedmont physiographic regions had been eliminated. The 1931 statewide deer population was estimated to be approximately 25,000 animals.

When exactly deer numbers began to increase significantly in Virginia is unknown. After the formation of the Virginia Game Commission in 1916, a considerable amount of time and effort was spent on deer management. In 1926, the Game Commission initiated a deer restoration program. With the exception of several western Piedmont counties that border the Blue Ridge Mountains, nearly all restocking in Virginia was done west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In all, more than 4,200 deer were released.

Current population estimates indicate that Virginia's deer herd has been fairly stable over the past decade, and a conservative estimate of the statewide pre-hunt population has been approximately 800,000-1,000,000 animals.

White-tailed deer are the most popular game species in the Commonwealth. In any given year over a quarter million Virginia deer hunters, including over 60,000 bow hunters and nearly 120,000 muzzleloader hunters, will spend approximately four million days afield hunting deer and kill on average more than 200,000 animals. Nearly 90 percent of Virginia hunters hunt deer, and over half of all days spent afield hunting in Virginia in any given year are spent in pursuit of deer.

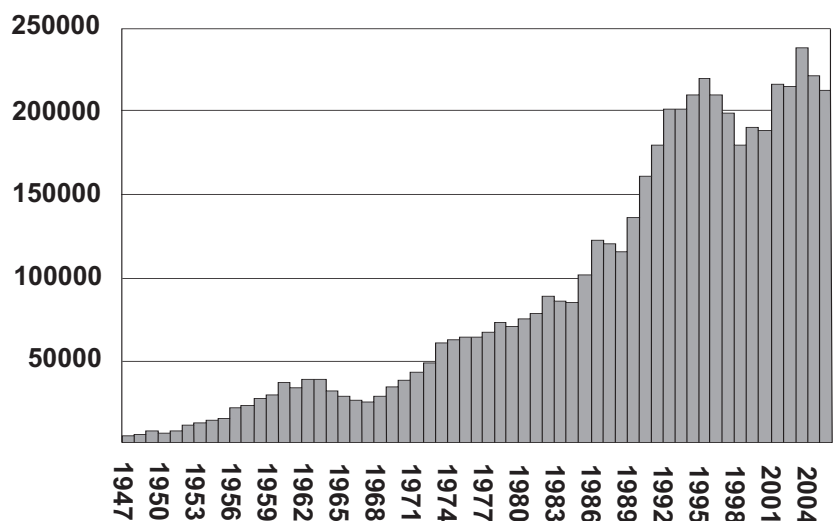
The cornerstone of Virginia's deer management program is the big game check station and telephone checking systems, which allow the Department to effectively monitor the annual deer kill on a county basis. Initiated in 1947, check stations are operated by local volunteers who serve without compensation. The telephone checking system was initiated in fall 2004. In contrast to many states that estimate their annual deer kill, Virginia's deer kill figures represent an actual known minimum count. The check station and telephone system provides deer kill data that the public understands and has confidence in.

Deer management in Virginia is characterized by two distinct zones of tradition and regulation, east of the Blue Ridge Mountains and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Deer hunting east of the Blue Ridge Mountains is strongly rooted in a private land hunt club tradition, where use of hounds and a seven-week long firearms season prevails. Conversely, west of the Blue Ridge Mountains dog hunting is prohibited by state law, hunt clubs are less common, nearly two million acres of public lands are available for hunting, and the firearms season is 13 days long. Historically, bag limits and either-sex deer hunting opportunities west of the Blue Ridge Mountains have been more conservative than those in eastern Virginia.

In Virginia, deer management objectives and regulations are set on a county basis. There are currently 99 county management units ranging in size from 26 to 971 square miles in area (average = 401 square miles). For deer population management purposes, there are only three logical population objectives: increase the deer population, stabilize the deer population, or reduce the deer population.

At the state level, deer regulations are evaluated and amended every other year on odd years. Depending on management goals and the current status of the deer herd, regulation amendments may involve an adjustment in season length(s), bag limit(s), and/or the number of firearms season either-sex deer hunting day(s). Deer management in Virginia is predicated on the fact that herd density and health are best controlled by regulating antlerless deer kill lev-

Virginia Deer Kill, 1947 to 2005



els. Management objectives are typically accomplished by increasing or decreasing the number of either-sex deer hunting days during the firearms season. Over 80 years of experience in Virginia has demonstrated that deer hunting is a viable, cost-efficient management tool that not only maintains a healthy deer resource, but also diminishes deer crop damage levels, deer-vehicle collision rates, and deer-ecosystem impacts.

Under optimum conditions, deer populations can double in size annually. Lacking an external regulating factor (e.g., predators, hunting, etc.) deer populations will generally expand to the point where food resources are limiting or exhausted. In unmanaged populations, the food supply controls deer numbers. This is the concept of biological carrying capacity (BCC). The BCC is the maximum number of deer that can be sustained over time. BCC is a function of the quality and quantity of habitat. It is not a function of deer. A habitat's BCC is not, however, a fixed number. Habitat carrying capacity changes seasonally and annually, with winter being the limiting season over most of Virginia.

Today, with the exception of several counties in far southwestern Virginia and on selected National Forest lands in western Virginia, the emphasis of Virginia's deer management program has switched from establishing and expanding deer herds to controlling their growth. This change in management direction has resulted in liberal deer hunting regulations and an increased kill of antlerless deer.

Change in deer management direction from establishing and allowing deer herd expansion to controlling population growth has been based on the cultural carrying capacity (CCC). CCC is defined as the number of deer that can coexist compatibly with humans. CCC is a function of the tolerance of humans to deer and the effects of deer. The CCC for deer generally occurs well below the biological carrying capacity (BCC). For example, deer-vehicle collisions are one of the most critical deer damage demands in Virginia. Although reliable data are not available, it is safe to assume that tens of thousands of deer-vehicle collisions take place in the Commonwealth each year.

Shenandoah County Antler Regulation

Quality Deer Management (QDM) is "the voluntary use of restraint in harvesting young bucks combined with an adequate harvest of antlerless deer to maintain a population in balance with existing habitat conditions." (Quality Deer Management Association)

QDM is one of several options for managing deer on a farm, hunting club, or other unit of land. It has been the Department's position that QDM can be practiced voluntarily by landowners and hunt clubs without mandatory regulations.

However, at the request of local deer hunters and landowners, three hunter surveys and two landowner surveys were conducted by the Department in Shenandoah County over the past seven years and demonstrated significant support (57-76%) for QDM. In light of this support, Department staff recommended a compromise between the current two bucks of any size regulation and an antler restriction affecting both bucks. Under the regulation adopted by the Board, if a hunter kills two bucks in Shenandoah County, at least one of the bucks must have at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on one side. See page 33.

Special Deer Management Programs:



©Leonard Lee Rue III

DMAP

Deer Management Assistance Program

DMAP is a site-specific deer management program that increases a landowner's or hunt club's management options by allowing a more liberal kill of antlerless deer during the hunting season. The primary goal is to allow landowners and hunt clubs to work together on a local level to manage their deer herd to meet their own goals. Secondary objectives are to increase the Department's biological database and to improve communication between deer hunters, landowners, and the Department. DMAP is open to every club or landowner in the state at no charge. In order to participate in DMAP, a new club or landowner must apply prior to September 15th. Applications are available from Department offices or any wildlife biologist. Eligible applicants will receive materials in the mail outlining the rules and requirements of the program, and all first year cooperators will be required to meet with their district wildlife biologist prior to their first season in the program. All program participants must collect biological deer harvest data for one hunting season prior to becoming eligible for DMAP tags. For more information regarding the DMAP program visit the Department's Web site.

DCAP

Damage Control Assistance Program

DCAP is a site-specific deer damage program that also increases a landowner's management options by allowing a more liberal kill of antlerless deer during the hunting season. The primary objective is the control of crop depredation by deer or other personal property damage. Secondary objectives are to maximize deer hunter participation in damage control efforts and to shift out of season kill permit deer kill into the open deer season. DCAP is available to landowners over most of the state at no charge. In order to participate in DCAP, a landowner must contact their local Game Warden when deer damage is occurring to their agricultural crops or personal property. DCAP permits are issued on a per property unit basis with a minimum issuance rate of 5 permits per property with a maximum of 25 per property. If eligible, a landowner will be mailed information on the rules of the program along with their DCAP tags. For more information on the DCAP program contact your local Game Warden, the region office serving your county (see listing on page 2) or visit the Department's Web site.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Introduction

CWD is a progressive brain and nervous system disease found in deer and elk. The disease ultimately results in the death of the infected animal. Species naturally infected include elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer and moose. CWD has not been found in Virginia; however, the closest area where CWD has been detected is Hampshire County, West Virginia.

CWD Surveillance in Virginia

From 2002-2004 over 1300 samples were collected, and CWD was not detected in all valid samples. Hunter-killed deer have been sampled from every county in the Commonwealth. Due to the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Hampshire County, West Virginia in September 2005, the Department increased its surveillance in 2005. The Department also established a CWD active surveillance area in the northern and western parts of Shenandoah, Frederick, Clarke and Loudoun Counties to determine if CWD was present in the areas closest to the outbreak in West Virginia. Active surveillance commenced in September, and samples from road-killed deer were collected with the cooperation of the Virginia Department of Transportation. In addition, Department staff collected 268 samples from hunter-killed deer that were voluntarily submitted for testing. By December 2005, approximately 550 active surveillance samples had been tested for CWD at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Minnesota using a relatively new rapid ELISA test. CWD was not detected in all valid samples. This sample size was large enough to give the Department a very high confidence that if CWD is present in the active surveillance area, then it is at very low levels.

Targeted Surveillance

In addition to active surveillance, one of the Department's main strategies for detecting CWD is to test deer that are showing symptoms of the disease. In the early stages of infections, animals do not show any symptoms, and signs generally do not develop until the deer is approximately 18 months of age. The incubation period can range from 12-18 months up to 3-5 years. In the later stages of infection animals begin to display abnormal behavior such as staggering or standing with a poor posture. Animals may carry the head and ears lowered. In the later stages of the disease infected animals become emaciated and appear in poor body condition.

If you see a deer with these symptoms do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal. You should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) at 1-804-367-1258 or the nearest Department office. Arrangements will be made to investigate the report if it is determined to be warranted. If you kill a severely emaciated deer or a deer that is obviously sick please also contact the VDGIF.

CWD Surveillance in 2006

VDGIF will continue with active surveillance for CWD in 2006, using the same strategy for 2005. The Department will be requesting the assistance of hunters in its CWD surveillance efforts, by requesting that hunters voluntarily submit heads at designated check stations within the active surveillance area (see map). The specific check stations will be advertised prior to hunting season. Hunter participation in CWD surveillance efforts is vital. By submitting deer heads for testing, hunters will enable the Department to more quickly and more effectively monitor for the presence of CWD.

Hunters will be able to check the CWD test results for their submitted deer heads on the Department's Web site at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/cwdresults>.

Carcass Importation Ban

The primary objective in the management of CWD is to prevent its spread into new areas. One possible mode of disease transmission is by the importation of infected carcasses. In an effort to minimize the risk for disease spread, Virginia along with a number of other states, have adopted regulations that prohibit the importation of whole carcasses and certain carcass parts of deer and elk harvested from states that have CWD.

Virginia's carcass transportation regulation prohibits the importation or possession of whole deer carcasses or specified parts of carcasses originating from a state or Canadian province in which CWD has been found in free-ranging or captive deer. This includes any member of the deer family Cervidae (including but not limited to white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, fallow, axis, and sika deer, elk, moose, and caribou).

States and provinces with CWD include Alberta, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Virginia's regulation does provide for the importation and possession of the following carcass parts:

- Boned out meat that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately).
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Hides and capes with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as "buglers," "whistlers," or "ivories."
- Finished taxidermy products.

A legible label shall be affixed to packages or containers holding the allowed carcass parts with the following information: the species of animal, the state or province from where the animal originated, and the name and address of the person who killed or owned the animal. Any person who imports into Virginia any deer carcass or parts described above and is notified that the animal has tested positive for CWD must report the test results to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries within 72 hours of receiving the notifi-

cation. In order to facilitate the proper disposal of any infected material, the Department may take into possession any imported carcass or carcass part of an animal if the animal has tested positive for CWD.

Since these regulations are continually evolving, it is recommended that, before hunting, you check the CWD regulations in your home state, the state in which you will be hunting, and states in which you will travel through en route home from your hunting area. A summary of state-by-state carcass transportation regulations is provided on the CWD Alliance Web site (www.cwd-info.org) under the policy/regulation/legislative section.

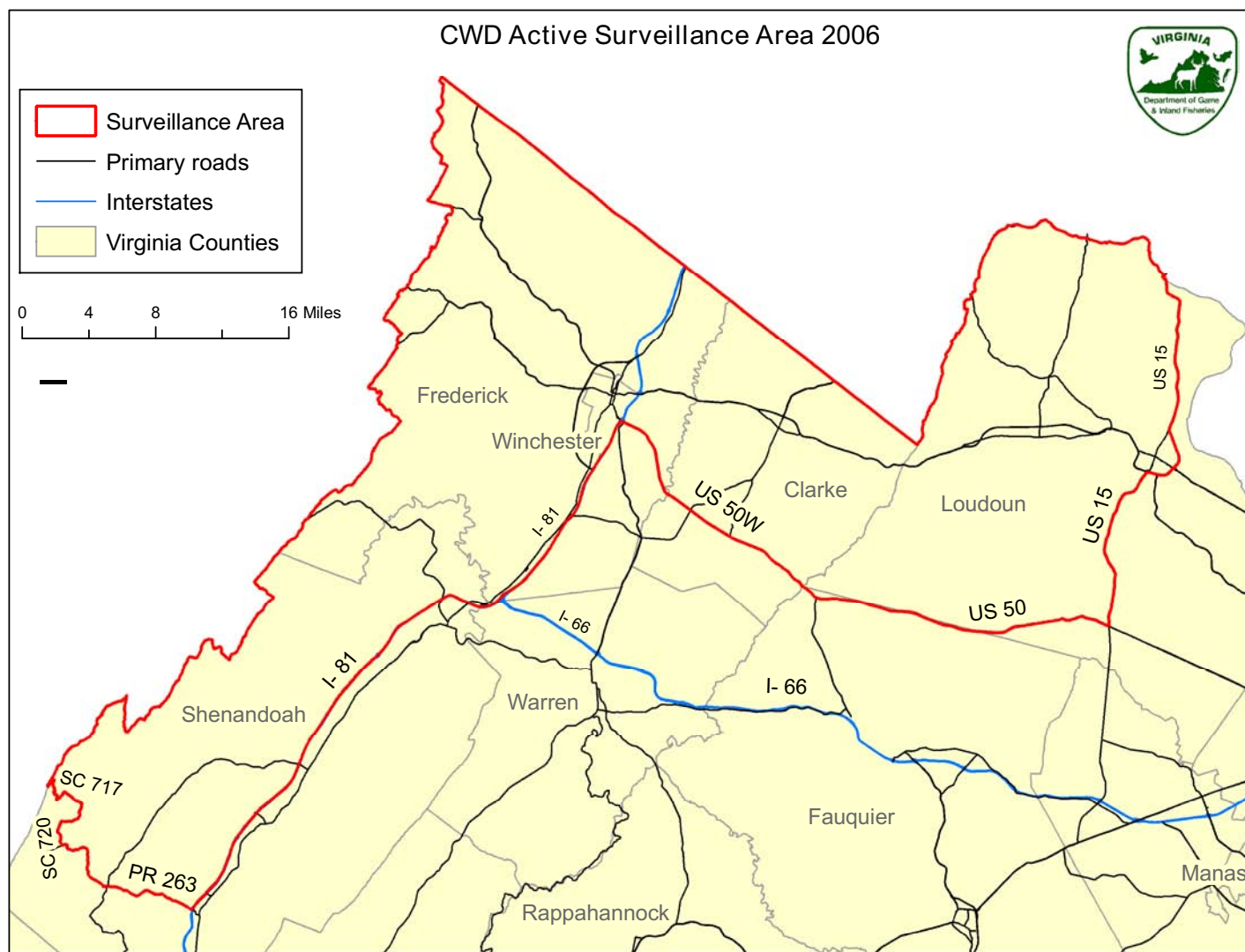
Deer Feeding Prohibition

In addition to preventing the introduction of the disease into new areas, it is also important to prohibit or limit activities that may increase the spread of the disease once it has been introduced into

an area. Activities that concentrate deer such as feeding or rehabilitation of deer may increase the rate of transmission of the disease. Please note that the Department has passed a regulation, effective July 1, 2006, making it unlawful for any person to distribute food, minerals, carrion or similar substances to feed or attract deer from September 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive (see page 21). This prohibition does not include the planting of agronomic crops or wildlife food plots.

Further Information

Further information about CWD, the Department's surveillance efforts, the carcass importation ban, and other regulations can be found on the Department's Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.



Data sources: DGIF, VDOT

Map created 3/16/06 DGIF-WDD-GIS, KDJ

Adult or Juvenile? Gobbler or Hen?

Juvenile turkeys can be distinguished from adults by the longer middle tail feathers.



HEAD: feathers only to base of head; colors variable red, white and blue



FOOT: greater than 4.5 inches

PLUMAGE: overall metallic

BREAST FEATHER: black tip



BEARD: evident; up to 12 inches

SPUR: bump to 1+ inch

TARSUS LENGTH: 6 inches

DROPPINGS: J-shaped



Gobbler



FOOT: less than 4.5 inches

PLUMAGE: duller, light brown

BREAST FEATHER: buff-colored tip



HEAD: feathers on crown; light blue

BEARD: usually none

TARSUS LENGTH: 4.5 inches

SPUR: absent

DROPPINGS: coiled or curled



Hen

- Illustrations by Bob Sopchick -

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Wild Turkey

by Gary W. Norman
Wild Turkey Project Leader

Virginia's pre-Colonial landscape featured mostly mature forest lands with scattered openings. These habitat conditions were ideal for the wild turkey when the first settlers arrived in Jamestown in 1607. It is evident that turkeys were common by the names given to topographic features throughout the state. Even Captain John Smith named a James River island, "Turkey Island."

Wild turkeys and other game were staple food items for settlers who explored and settled the Virginia countryside during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Wild game was also commercially hunted and sold to feed the growing human population. Wild game was sold in quantities comparable to domestic animals, and at a fraction of the cost.

Forests were cut and tamed with ax and plow for agriculture and timber. By the turn of the 20th Century, the extensive Virginia forests and wildlife habitat were gone. These habitat changes, combined with market hunting, led to the complete disappearance of wild turkeys from most of Virginia. Populations of wild turkeys in Virginia were probably at their lowest during the period from 1880 to 1910.

Concern for wild turkey conservation in Virginia led to the 1912 "Robin Bill" which prohibited the sale wild turkeys and other bird species. Enforcement of the "Robin Bill" and other hunting legislation came in 1916 with the creation of the Virginia Game Commission.

The Game Commission began a restocking program in 1929 using turkeys reared at game farms. By 1955, the Commission had raised and released over 22,000 game-farm turkeys. Despite many modifications of breeding, raising, and releasing game-farm turkeys, very little, if any, success came from these efforts at establishing wild turkey populations in any locality in Virginia.

A new and highly successful method was developed in 1955 whereby native wild turkeys were trapped and transferred to areas with suitable habitat. Nearly 900 wild turkeys have been trapped and relocated in Virginia. As the gateway to restoration of wild turkey populations in Southwest and Tidewater regions of Virginia, most of these birds came from the Gathright Wildlife Management Area in Bath County. The Department completed restoration efforts in 1993 with the final release on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Following the successful reintroduction of the wild turkey, the Department turned its emphasis toward research questions about biology and management. The most extensive project was a 5-year study to determine the cause of low densities and low growth rates in wild turkey populations in western Virginia. During the study, biologists captured wild turkeys and attached radio transmitters to monitor their movements, survival, and reproduction. Conducted in cooperation with West Virginia, this was the largest single turkey study ever conducted anywhere in the country. Conclusions were based on data from more than 1,000 wild turkey hens. The research evaluated the impacts of several different fall hunting seasons on survival rates and concluded that Virginia's longer fall season was adding mortality to the population and lowered survival rates. Further, low reproductive rates were not compensating for this high mortality. High fall harvests, associated with mast failures, were resulting in lower densities and lower growth rates. Annual survival rates averaged 48% in Virginia's 8 and 9-week season fall season. Survival was 52% in West Virginia's 4-week season and 59% in the area of West Virginia without fall hunting. Natural mortality accounted for 34% of the population losses. Foxes and bobcats were the most common predators of adult turkeys. Virginia hunters averaged taking 16% of the population whereas West Virginia hunters

averaged taking 7% in their 4-week season. Illegal mortality was surprisingly high, averaging 11% in both states. Survival rates were also related to the availability of mast crops, namely acorns. Survival was higher during years with good mast crops and lower during years of mast failures. Reproduction was unexpectedly low. Only one-third of the hens were successful hatching a clutch and about half of those were lost during the first 4-weeks following hatching. Hens only averaged producing 1.5 poults per hen.

The Department is embarking on a new study to investigate survival in our gobbler population. Research is ongoing in the Tidewater and Southwest Mountain Regions of the state. Additionally, we hope to investigate factors that affect gobbling; this should prove interesting to spring gobbler hunters.

Wild turkeys were once thought to be "wilderness birds", requiring large forested tracts of timber and little disturbance from man. Today we know a different wild turkey, one that is very adaptable and capable of thriving in a wide variety of habitats, even very urbanized environments. We now know that wild turkey habitat needs are best met with a mosaic of mostly mature forest stands interspersed with openings and herbaceous plant communities.

Partly due to habitat differences, turkey population densities are not uniform across the state. The South Piedmont and Tidewater Regions currently have the highest turkey densities in the state.

Turkey hunting is a very popular and challenging sport. Dating back to the 17th century, fall hunting for wild turkeys has been a long-established tradition in Virginia. Spring gobbler hunting is a relatively recent management program that began in 1962. Good woodsmanship and calling skills are generally needed to harvest a wild turkey. Most hunters consider the wild turkey a prized big-game trophy. Interest in turkey hunting has increased in Virginia and with more than 63,000 and 73,000 hunters pursuing wild turkeys in the fall spring gobbler season, respectively. While interest in spring gobbler hunting has been steadily increasing over the last 2 decades, recent data suggests slower growth in spring hunter numbers. The fall turkey season contributes almost 19 million dollars to Virginia's economy.

2005-2006 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest

Fall turkey hunters reported a harvest of 4,428 birds in the 2005-06 season. This harvest was 22 percent below last year's reported kill (5,656). The harvest declined 25 percent in counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (1,706 vs. 2,285). Counties east of the Blue Ridge declined 19 percent (2,722 vs. 3,371). Scott led all counties with a harvest of 144 birds.

The decrease in the fall turkey harvest was likely due to a combination of the effects of reproduction and mast crops. Population levels have declined in recent years with poor recruitment since 2001. Based on the ratio of juveniles per adult female in the fall harvest (an index to reproductive success), reproduction in 2005 was below average. Reproductive success in 2005 was significantly below average with a ratio of 1.9 juveniles per adult female; the long-term average is 3.2 juveniles per adult female in the fall harvest.

Similar trends have occurred in adjoining states and throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions. For example, the fall harvest in West Virginia dropped 18% in 2005-06 and was the lowest since 1967.

Inclement weather during spring nesting and brood rearing are factors related to poor recruitment. Colder March temperatures delay the onset of breeding and nesting. High rainfall in April is associated with poor nest success. Nest predators may maybe more successful in finding nesting birds when conditions are cool and moist.

Deer, Bear, Turkey Harvest Information

County/City	Deer		Bear		Turkey			
	05/06	5 Year Avg.	05/06	5 Year Avg.	Fall 05/06	5 Year Avg.	Spring 04	5 Year Avg.
Accomack	2740	2637	0	0	0	0	101	93
Albemarle	4840	4884	66	66	37	82	125	190
Alleghany	1639	2286	88	68	59	135	185	228
Amelia	2535	2231	0	0.3	116	183	161	210
Amherst	2374	3018	22	20	58	88	190	256
Appomattox	1189	1250	2	3	45	90	93	146
Augusta	3857	4170	86	80	86	135	166	224
Bath	2666	3646	56	50	53	132	136	235
Bedford	7134	7141	27	16	140	233	427	606
Bland	1898	2429	29	22	39	102	231	188
Botetourt	3350	3738	65	45	139	228	260	332
Brunswick	2726	2343	0	0.3	75	93	117	134
Buchanan	369	362	3	2	17	51	179	229
Buckingham	2518	2393	12	10	98	153	136	181
Campbell	1807	1796	4	1	53	104	194	263
Caroline	3541	3493	0	0	67	119	129	171
Carroll	1426	1467	3	7	54	104	249	266
Charles City	1892	1690	0	0	21	32	96	133
Charlotte	1801	1577	3	2	68	111	185	243
Chesapeake	733	745	5	6	0	0	3	2
Chesterfield	1503	1441	0	0	54	62	75	114
Clarke	1861	1861	1	2	10	12	46	39
Craig	1954	2539	32	31	70	125	210	189
Culpeper	2830	2733	12	7	28	42	66	91
Cumberland	2043	1874	0	0.3	122	126	125	151
Dickenson	782	774	0	0.3	33	89	137	194
Dinwiddie	1806	1646	0	0	103	122	162	195
Essex	2409	2059	0	0	39	47	66	109
Fairfax	1088	920	0	0	6	3	3	5
Fauquier	7340	6724	8	10	44	46	118	131
Floyd	2052	2459	0	4	63	124	249	272
Fluvanna	1697	1708	3	2	61	94	79	128
Franklin	5192	5009	5	5	101	210	557	559
Frederick	3745	4048	4	6	51	73	146	148
Giles	2530	3291	31	24	70	135	275	235
Gloucester	1409	1149	0	0	15	24	145	170
Goochland	2259	2150	0	0.3	81	123	90	132
Grayson	3540	3709	12	10	70	121	321	335
Greene	590	556	28	29	3	5	30	17
Greensville	1515	1558	0	0	47	56	110	118
Halifax	3083	2818	0	0.3	111	171	239	332
Hanover	2277	1952	0	0.3	45	69	100	150
Henrico	943	894	0	0	14	22	55	46
Henry	1878	1930	2	1	22	46	207	175
Highland	2075	3451	49	47	39	86	63	116
Isle of Wight	2071	1954	0	0	17	18	211	194
James City	1034	1002	0	0	8	10	54	70
King & Queen	2231	2021	0	0	46	85	119	157
King George	1346	1324	0	0	12	18	68	85

County/City	Deer		Bear		Turkey			
	05/06	5 Year Avg.	05/06	5 Year Avg.	Fall 05/06	5 Year Avg.	Spring 04	5 Year Avg.
King William	2302	2196	0	0	60	97	86	133
Lancaster	1098	947	0	0	8	22	117	145
Lee	1568	1552	0	0	41	60	183	220
Loudoun	6816	7036	1	1	23	36	129	119
Louisa	2241	2001	0	0	59	110	113	156
Lunenburg	1314	1283	3	4	28	49	124	133
Madison	2022	1929	95	69	21	24	53	73
Mathews	331	328	0	0	7	5	55	70
Mecklenburg	1729	1700	3	1	49	80	178	227
Middlesex	640	634	0	0	4	13	89	103
Montgomery	2010	2561	9	6	61	118	221	205
Nelson	2109	2534	47	46	37	82	137	189
New Kent	1759	1717	0	0	24	36	103	118
Newport News	184	206	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northampton	1318	1479	0	0	0	0	62	56
Northumberland	1264	987	0	0	24	41	165	237
Nottoway	1442	1327	1	0.3	46	59	82	108
Orange	2459	2439	2	2	31	49	61	70
Page	1099	1143	60	77	17	28	54	69
Patrick	2205	2542	4	5	50	97	345	329
Pittsylvania	4277	4415	3	2	105	215	473	550
Powhatan	1860	1813	4	1	99	126	107	144
Prince Edward	1673	1671	2	1	56	101	130	168
Prince George	1598	1483	0	0	20	25	135	156
Prince William	1831	1790	0	0.3	9	16	43	53
Pulaski	1646	1885	9	5	56	102	158	156
Rappahannock	1882	1846	57	46	18	26	34	50
Richmond	1576	1236	0	0	11	26	165	215
Roanoke	1264	1405	14	12	22	57	138	121
Rockbridge	2756	3356	84	45	85	163	256	301
Rockingham	4085	4959	153	143	45	85	143	157
Russell	1483	1533	7	5	66	95	141	163
Scott	3706	3727	3	2	144	197	368	388
Shenandoah	4608	5114	66	54	105	131	158	168
Smyth	1776	1913	42	17	36	73	182	143
Southampton	5628	4982	0	0	34	28	306	299
Spotsylvania	1545	1410	0	0	15	39	34	46
Stafford	1252	1275	0	0.3	23	32	49	63
Suffolk	1918	1675	17	10	0	0	140	105
Surry	2389	2236	0	0	20	34	201	199
Sussex	2936	2778	0	0	52	54	208	215
Tazewell	2262	2478	24	19	42	71	141	181
Virginia Beach	498	476	1	1	0	0	0	0
Warren	1561	1663	32	35	12	24	42	46
Washington	1683	1637	17	11	48	66	136	124
Westmoreland	1431	1243	0	0	11	22	186	243
Wise	562	502	8	5	12	41	129	162
Wythe	2315	2619	11	7	61	101	273	255
York	646	706	0	0	12	20	33	34
Total	214675	218909	1439	1211	4428	7323	14355	16653

Small Game

by Patrick Cook
Small Game Project Leader

How Far Could a Squirrel Travel in The Treetops?

It is commonly believed that when Jamestown was founded in 1607, Virginia was covered by unbroken closed-canopy forests such that a squirrel could travel across the state leaping from treetop to treetop without ever touching the ground. However, evidence from historical records and paleoecological studies indicate that Virginia's landscape was actually a varied mixture of dense woods, open oak/pine savannas, and grasslands prior to European settlement. This landscape was produced and maintained by the frequent fires that were set by Native Americans and lightning. Virginia's first inhabitants used fire to create fields for crops, drive game for hunting, improve game habitat, and facilitate travel. Unfortunately, the myth of the unbroken forest has caused many to consider actions that create early successional habitat such as forest thinnings and prescribed burning to be destructive to "nature," despite the fact that a much higher proportion of early successional species (including quail) are declining significantly. It has even been suggested that there are more quail in Virginia today than in 1607. The truth is there were likely many times more quail as well as other early successional species in pre-settlement Virginia and if a squirrel traveled across the state treetop to treetop; it would have needed Superman's leaping ability.

Southern Fox Squirrel Project

The Department is currently determining the distribution of fox squirrels in southeastern Virginia and needs your help. The variety found in this part of the state typically has a black "mask." Their backs may be black or grayish red and the undersides may be white or light orange-red. The fox squirrel can be easily distinguished from the more common gray squirrel by its size. It is almost twice as large as the gray squirrel. If you have seen a fox squirrel in southeastern Virginia, please let us know.

Phone: Richmond (804) 367-0904

E-mail: pat.cook@dgif.virginia.gov

In Writing: Patrick Cook, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 107 Foxwood Dr., Farmville, VA 23901

The Southern Fox Squirrel is not listed as threatened or endangered and there is no plan to list it. We do not want landowners who have the squirrels on their property to be afraid that anyone will infringe upon their property rights. We are simply trying to determine their distribution and abundance. This information will be used to determine the need for and feasibility of initiating a reintroduction program.

Quail Wing Survey

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is attempting to reach quail hunters who would be willing to participate in an ongoing research project. Since 1977, our Department has conducted an annual survey to monitor Virginia's wild bobwhite quail population. The purpose of the survey is to collect information that increases our knowledge of quail in Virginia and improves our ability to manage quail in the future. Cooperators report the results of each wild quail hunting trip using postage-paid and pre-addressed envelopes that are mailed to each cooperator prior to the season. A report of survey results is mailed to each cooperator. If you would be willing to participate in this study, please let us know by email (pat.cook@dgif.virginia.gov), phone (804-367-0904), or in writing (107 Foxwood Dr., Farmville, VA 23901). Be sure to include your full name and address. We look forward to hearing from you!

June Squirrel Season

The Department is offering a new season to Virginia sportsmen. It will be legal to harvest squirrels on select Wildlife Management Areas during June 2 - June 23, 2007 (see page 41). Virginia joins seven other states that currently allow hunters to harvest squirrels in the spring/summer. Although it may be a foreign idea to many sportsmen, a June season is biologically justified. Squirrels have two peak reproductive periods - one during February-March and another during July-August. Therefore, hunters can harvest squirrels during the June season without impacting populations. Because school will be out during most of the season, the June squirrel season is a wonderful opportunity to introduce a youngster to hunting.



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Furbearers

by Mike Fies
Furbearer Project Leader

Historical Harvest

Hunting and trapping of furbearing animals played an important role in the exploration and settlement of colonial Virginia. As early as 1546, a French sailing ship traded with Native Americans in the Chesapeake Bay region for fur pelts. The wilderness of Virginia was rich in wildlife resources and fur was one the most valuable commodities available for export. Great demand for beaver pelts and other furs by Europeans fueled a burgeoning industry with a seemingly endless supply of animals to trap. Between 1699 and 1715, almost a quarter million pelts from 13 species were exported from Virginia to England.

Eventually, intense commercial demand coupled with unregulated and unsustainable harvest, reduced the population of some furbearer species to the brink of extinction. Protection, enhancement, and reestablishment of Virginia's furbearer populations did not occur until almost 200 years later when the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was formed and modern wildlife management practices were instituted. Today, populations of most furbearer species are flourishing and trapping remains a viable and enjoyable outdoor pursuit.

Current Pelt Harvest

The number of pelts purchased or brokered by licensed fur dealers serves as a useful index of furbearer population levels. In Virginia, the number of pelts purchased or brokered by these dealers increased from 34,424 in 2003-2004 to 41,814 in 2004-2005 (+21.5%). Fur dealer pelt transactions increased for all species except river otter. The total number of bobcat and otter pelt transactions exceeded the 40-year average reported from 1964-2004 by 274.5% and 101.3%, respectively. The total number of coyote pelt transactions exceeded the 12-year average by 328.3%, as reported by fur dealers from 1993-2004.

Fur pelts purchased or brokered by Virginia fur dealers were valued at approximately \$475,458 during the 2004-2005 fur harvest season. The relative value of fur purchased during 2004-2005 represents an 6.0% increase in value over the previous reporting year (\$448,559), but is only 4.4% of the record value (\$10,881,989) of fur pelts purchased during the 1980-1981 fur harvest season (2004 U.S. dollar equivalent). The average price paid per pelt increased for bobcat (+33.8%), mink (+26.5%), nutria (+104.8%), and opossum (+3.6%). Pelt prices decreased for beaver (-2.2%), coyote (-14.3%), gray fox (-15.2%), red fox (-20.2%), muskrat (-2.2%), river otter (-2.1%), raccoon (-6.1%), nutria (-23.2%), and skunk (-4.8%).

In general, trapping license sales are highly dependent on fur prices. Trapping license sales increased 10.7% from 1,201 during 2003-2004 to 1,329 licenses sold during 2004-2005. Total trapping license sales were 74.9% less than the record high of 5,293 trapping licenses sold during 1979-1980 and 87.4% greater than the record low 709 licenses sold during 1993-1994.

2004-2005 Virginia Furdealer Transactions and Average Pelt Value.

Species	# Pelts Sold or Brokered	Average Pelt Price
Beaver	5,179	\$ 12.18
Bobcat	875	41.05
Coyote	479	13.07
Fox, Gray	4,093	14.30
Fox, Red	2,717	13.96
Mink	636	12.42
Muskrat	11,052	2.65
Nutria	117	3.91
Opossum	2,320	1.68
Otter	1,594	101.35
Raccoon	12,573	5.57
Skunk	179	3.43

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry and agricultural practices have been around for many years. However, few people realize that BMPs are also being developed for trapping most furbearer species. Since 1996, wildlife biologists and trappers have worked together to identify traps and trapping techniques that improve efficiency and selectivity, as well as the welfare of trapped animals. More than 50 types of traps have already been evaluated by trapper/technician teams in 32 states. Full body necropsies were performed by wildlife veterinarians to assess different types of trap injuries. Results from these research projects are being used to develop species-specific reference guides that provide recommendations for the continued improvement of traps and trapping systems. So far, BMP manuals have been published for the eastern and western coyote, red fox and raccoon. Draft BMP documents for the bobcat, gray fox, and opossum are also very close to completion. Using the most efficient and humane traps available for each species should increase acceptance of furbearer management programs by the nontrapping public. BMP recommendations will be voluntary and incorporated into trapper education programs. Modern, regulated trapping provides many benefits to society. Acceptance of BMPs will help insure that trapping remains a viable tool in wildlife management programs in the future. For more information about BMP's, please visit www.furbearermgt.org.

New Otter Season West of the Blue Ridge

For the first time since 1978, limited otter trapping opportunities will be available in certain counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. River otter populations in this region have been steadily increasing and appear to be sufficient to support a trapping season in the New River, Roanoke River, and James River watersheds. This new season will allow trappers to harvest a limited number of otters while providing the Department with biological information to more accurately assess their population status. Trappers will be limited to two otters per season and must submit the entire skinned carcass of each otter for biological evaluation. The West of the Blue Ridge counties open to otter trapping are illustrated on page 45.

2006 - 2007 Quota Hunts

General Information/Application

The Department's Quota Hunts requires hunters to apply pre-season and be selected by random drawing to hunt waterfowl and/or big and small game. A non-refundable application fee of \$7.50 will be applied to each hunt except Radford Deer hunt. The application fee to apply for the Radford Hunt will be \$10.00. A hunter may apply by mail, telephone or through the Agency Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov. When applying by mail, copy and fill-out the application on page 67, or download the application from the Agency Web site. Mail application to: Virginia Quota Hunts, c/o CyberData, Inc., Hicksville, New York 11802. Remit check(s) payable to: CyberData, Inc. When applying by telephone, please have your credit card number available, call between the hours of 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 1-877-VAHUNTS (1-877-824-8687).

NOTE: Hunters will be notified by United States mail or e-mail if selected or not selected for each hunt applied.

Waterfowl

Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Series #101

Hunt waterfowl on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Hunt includes half day hunting for each Saturday during the last segments of the general duck season. Each hunting party is provided a blind, boat and decoys for the day. Nine (9) hunters are selected for each day of hunting, and each hunter is allowed to bring two guests. Limited access to the area requires hunters be transported by Department personnel to their blind location. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt dates: TBA (to be announced)

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts Series #102

Hunt waterfowl on managed impoundments at the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunt includes half day hunting for each Wednesday during the last segments of the general duck season. Each hunting party is provided a blind, boat and decoys for the half day. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each day of hunting. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts Series #103

Hunt waterfowl on the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Hunt days are during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. Three hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt dates. Hunting is from floating blinds at designated blind stakes. No boats or decoys are provided with this hunt.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Tundra Swan Permit Series #104

Tundra Swan hunting is by permit only. The Agency will randomly issue 600 permits. Each permit holder will be authorized to take one Tundra Swan during the season. The hunt area is limited to east of U.S. Route I-95 and south of Chopawamsic Creek on the Prince William / Stafford County line.

TUNDRA SWAN season: TBA.

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts Series # 105

Hunt waterfowl on Lake Orange, Orange County. Hunt days are every Saturday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunting will only be allowed on a designated section(s) of Lake Orange. Floating blinds, anchored within 50 feet of shore or portable blinds will be allowed along the designated shoreline.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts Series # 106

Hunt waterfowl on designated impoundments at Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Hunt days are every Wednesday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunts end at 12:00 Noon each Wednesday. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunters must provide decoys. Dogs are allowed. There are no boat landings or direct vehicular access provided. Small boats or canoes may be used but must be transported on foot.

Hunt Dates: TBA

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts Series #107

Hunt waterfowl for half days on the waters of Back Bay in the City of Virginia Beach. There are 51 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Drawing order will be randomly selected for each hunt day prior to the hunting season. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind in the order assigned by the preseason drawing. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Each hunter is allowed THREE guests. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting promptly at 5:15 a.m. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/ float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time!

Hunt days: Opening days, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and some holidays.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunts Series # 108

Hunt waterfowl for full days on the Cow Island Unit of the Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Poquoson. There are 4 areas available for hunting, using unimproved shore locations or portable blinds. Hunters select preferred dates and locations for two-day hunt packages per week during the last two segments of the regular duck season. Each hunter selected is allowed 2 guests. Hunters will provide their own: boat access to the refuge, decoys, portable blinds and hunting gear. Dogs are permitted and encouraged. Boat launch access to the hunting area is available for a fee at the Poquoson Marina and the Rens Road Public Boat Ramp in Poquoson.

Hunt days: Youth Hunt Day, Opening Days, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Holidays.

Hunt Dates: TBA

Application due: October 6, 2006

Deer

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts Series # 201

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates archery: October 7-11 (no Sunday hunting), 12-14, 16-18.

Applications due: August 30, 2006

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts Series # 202

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: October 19-21, 23-25, 26-28.

Applications due: August 30, 2006

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts Series # 203

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates firearm: October 30 - November 1, November 2-4.

Applications due: August 30, 2006

Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts Series # 204

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA in Northampton County during the dates listed below. The 365-acre GATR Tract is the mainland part of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. A total of two

hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: November 4-8 (no Sunday hunting), November 9-11, November 13-15, November 16-17 (two days only).

Applications due: August 30, 2006

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park Deer and Hog Hunt Series # 205

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer and feral hogs on the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park in the City of Virginia Beach for the dates listed below. A total of 116 hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. A stand-by drawing will be available for "no shows." Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10.00 to the Back Bay NWR / False Cape SP payable on the day of the hunt.

Hunt dates: October 7, 9-11 and 26-28, 2006

Application due: August 30, 2006

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge Series # 206

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Caroline, Essex, King George, Richmond and Westmoreland counties for the dates listed below. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of: \$10/day or \$50/season to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

Hunt dates archery: October 7 - November 17, 2006

Application due: August 30, 2006

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge Series # 207

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Essex, King George, and Richmond counties for the dates listed below. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: November 4, 10, and 11, 2006.

Application due: August 30, 2006

**Keep firearms pointed
in a safe direction at
all times.**

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 208

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Essex, King George, and Richmond counties for the dates listed below. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

Hunt dates firearms: November 18, 24, 25, and 30, and December 1 and 2, 2006

Application due: August 30, 2006

Presquile National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 209

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge in Chesterfield County for the dates listed below. Presquile is an island in the James River near Hopewell, Virginia. Hunters will provide their own boat access to the island and hunting gear. Boat launch access to the refuge is from: Deep Bottom public boat ramp (Henrico County) and Hopewell Marina (launch fee collected on site), City of Hopewell. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

Hunt dates firearms: November 20, 25, and 28, 2006

Application due: August 30, 2006

Radford Army Ammunition Plant Deer Hunts

Series # 210

Hunt quality white-tailed deer at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) in Pulaski County. Bow hunting and shotgun hunting are allowed. Hunters and the day they will hunt are selected by computer drawing. Applications are limited to one hunter per year. The application is found on page 68. A list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about the Radford Hunt is posted at www.dgif.virginia.gov; go to Hunting, Quota Hunts.

Hunt dates archery: October 28, November 4

Hunt dates shotgun: November 18, 25, 29, and December 2, 6

Applications due: August 30, 2006

MULTI-SPECIES WMA Hunts

Cavalier and Dismal Swamp Tract (formerly Dismal Swamp WMA) WMA Hunts

Series # 301

Hunt white-tailed deer and any other legal game species in season during the General Deer Firearm season in the City of Chesapeake. A total of 40 hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates firearm: October 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-28,

Oct. 30 - November 4, Nov. 6-11, 13-18, 20-25, 27-30, 2006

Applications due: August 30, 2006

Featherfin WMA

Series # 302

Hunt any game species in season on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward Counties. A total of 14 hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunter quota restrictions do not apply on open hunting season dates other than those listed below. A special 4-pt. antler rule is posted and applies during all open deer seasons.

Hunt dates: Nov. 4-8, Nov. 9-11, Nov. 13-15, Nov. 16-18,

Nov. 20-22, Nov. 23-25, Nov. 27-29, Nov. 30- Dec. 2,

Dec. 4-6, Dec. 7-9, Dec. 11-13, Dec. 14-16, Dec. 18-20,

Dec. 21-23, Dec. 25-27, Dec. 28-30, 2006 Jan. 1-3,

Jan. 4-6, 2007

Applications due: August 30, 2006

2007 Spring Turkey Hunts

Featherfin WMA

Series # 401

Hunt spring gobblers on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward Counties. A total of 6 hunters are selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Successful applicants will be entitled to bring 1 guest. April 7, 2007 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger on April 7. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 7-May 19.

Hunt dates: April 7, 2007 (Youth Day), April 14-18 (no Sunday hunting), April 19-21, April 23-25, April 26-28, April 30 - May 2, May 3-5.

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Amelia WMA

Series # 402

Hunt spring gobblers on the Amelia WMA in Amelia County. A total of 3 hunters are selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Successful applicants will be entitled to bring 1 guest. April 7, 2007 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger on April 7. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 7-May 19, 2007.

Hunt dates: April 7, 2007 (Youth Day), April 14-18 (no Sunday hunting), April 19-21, April 23-25, April 26-28, April 30 - May 2, May 3-5, 2007.

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts

Series #403

Hunt spring gobblers on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA, Northampton County. The GATR Tract is the mainland part of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. A total of one

hunter is selected for each hunt segment. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. April 7, 2007 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 7-May 19, 2007.

Hunt dates: April 7, 2007 (Youth Day), April 14-18 (no Sunday hunting), April 19-21, April 23-25, April 26-28, April 30 - May 2, May 3-5, May 7-9, May 10-12, May 14-16, May 17-19, 2007.

Applications due: October 6, 2006

Small Game

Amelia WMA Quail, Rabbit, and Woodcock Hunts Series # 501

Hunt quail, rabbit and woodcock in season on the Amelia WMA in Amelia County. Five successful applicants will be drawn to hunt one-day during each week when the season is open for hunting woodcock, quail, or rabbits. The successful applicant and two guests (maximum three per party) may choose to hunt any day during the week for which they are drawn. Hunters are required to complete and submit a questionnaire regarding their hunting efforts.

Hunt Dates: Nov. 6-11 (rabbit), Nov. 13-18 (rabbit/quail), Nov. 20-25, Nov. 27-Dec. 2, Dec. 4-9, Dec. 11-16, Dec. 18-23, Dec. 25-30, 2006 Jan. 1-6, Jan. 8-13, Jan. 15-20, Jan. 22-27, Jan. 29-Feb. 3 (quail ends January 31st), Feb. 5-10, Feb. 12-14, 2007. Woodcock season to be announced July 15, 2005 (see Agency Web site).

Applications due: August 30, 2006.

NOTE: For information on Agency Quota Hunts go to: www.dgif.virginia.gov, select Hunting, Quota Hunts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.



©Dwight Dyke

2006-2007 Managed Hunts and Workshops

The Department's Managed Hunts are generally by on-site random drawings or by application through the local Regional Wildlife Office. Hunting opportunities are provided on various Department Wildlife Management Areas. For information on Managed Hunts, go to the Agency Web site at: www.dgif.virginia.gov, select Hunting, then Managed Hunts.

Waterfowl

Hog Island WMA September Waterfowl Hunts

Hunt resident Canada geese and teal when in season each Saturday for half a day on Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of 30 hunters are selected each morning of the hunt. The Department in cooperation with the Wildlife Foundation will host a youth waterfowl hunting day the 1st Saturday of the resident goose season (to be announced July 15, 2006, see Agency Web site). The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult (only the youth may carry a firearm). There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt days: Saturdays.

Hunt dates: TBA (to be announced by July 15, 2006 see agency website).

Drawing begins promptly at 5:00 a.m.

Hog Island–Youth Waterfowl Day

This is an opportunity for 30 youth to hunt waterfowl on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. The Department in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited will host a youth waterfowl hunting day in October (to be announced July 15, 2006, see Agency Web site). Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. All youth hunters are to be registered for this event. To register, contact the Hog Island WMA after September 1, 2006 at: 757 / 357-5224. Activities include: a morning hunt, retriever demonstration, waterfowl calling, decoy set-up and rocket net demonstration. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt date: TBA.

Hunters to arrive before 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA Float Blind September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

Hunt September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl (during the October waterfowl season) on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's 51 float blind stakes are available to float blind hunters on a first come, first served. Hunters are not allowed to tie float blinds to stakes before 5:00 a.m. Half-day (until 1:00 p.m.) hunting allowed on Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the

area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt days: Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays.

Hunt dates: September Geese, TBA
September Teal: TBA
October Waterfowl: TBA

Hunters may not tie up to blind stakes until 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA Stationary Blind September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

This is an opportunity to hunt September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl during the October waterfowl season on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's four blinds will be first come, first served. Three-person parties can enjoy a half-day (until 1:00 p.m.) hunting on Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking area off Munden Road.

Hunt days: Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays.

Hunt dates: September Geese TBA
September Teal: TBA
October Waterfowl: TBA

Hunters may not occupy blinds before 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA Late Snow Goose Hunts

This is an opportunity for float blind hunters to hunt snow geese at the Princess Anne WMA after the general duck season. The Princess Anne blind stakes in Back Bay are available for snow goose hunting after the general duck season. These hunts will be permitted after the general duck season and will be on a first come, first served basis. Daily hunting times will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

Season dates: TBA

Princess Anne WMA–Youth Waterfowl Day

Float blind stakes will be open on a first come, first served basis to youths 15 years or younger when accompanied by an adult.

The Department will host a youth waterfowl hunting day in October (to be announced September 1, 2006, see Agency Web site). Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. Depending upon impoundment conditions and number of participants there may be an option to use blinds on Beasley and Whitehurst tracts. This will be coordinated at the Trojan club house at 5:00 a.m. on the hunt day.

Hunt day: TBA

Hunters to arrive promptly at 5:00 a.m.

**Only load your firearm
when you are ready
to hunt.**

Deer Hunts–Disabled Hunters

C.F. Phelps WMA Deer Hunt for the Disabled

This is an opportunity for persons with permanent disabilities to hunt white-tailed deer on the Hogue Tract of the C.F. Phelps WMA in Fauquier County. Two disabled hunters per day are chosen to hunt during the archery, muzzleloader and general firearms deer seasons. Each successful applicant may be accompanied by one companion, who may hunt if properly licensed. Applications for this special hunt must include the name, date of birth, address and telephone number (business and home), hunting license number, vehicle description and vehicle license number of the disabled hunter and companion hunter, and 2 preferred hunting dates. The application should be mailed to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN: Hogue Tract Hunt, 1320 Belman Road, Fredericksburg, VA. 22401. Applications must be received by the close of business on September 30, 2006.

Hunt dates archery: October 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30 and Nov. 1, 2006

Hunt dates muzzleloader: November 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 15, 2006

Hunt dates general firearms: November 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29 and Dec. 3, 2006

Hunting Workshops–Deer

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a Generations Deer Hunting Workshop on the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Prince William County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Fredericksburg Regional Office at (540) 899-4169.

Workshop date: Saturday, December 2, 2006

Hunting Workshops–Squirrel

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a squirrel hunting workshop on the C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Fauquier County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Fredericksburg Regional Office at (540) 899-4169.

Workshop date: September 23, 2006

NOTE: For information on Managed Hunts go to the Agency Web site: www.dgif.virginia.gov; select Hunting, Managed Hunts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.



DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

2006 - 2007 HUNTING SEASON

QUOTA HUNTS



APPLY ONLINE

IT'S FAST & EASY!

<http://www.vaquotahunts.com>

Apply online for the 2006-2007 Quota Hunts. It's the fastest and easiest way! Application fee by credit card payment only. On the internet, go to: <http://www.vaquotahunts.com>. NOTE: Applications will be accepted until close of business on the due date specified for that particular hunt.

APPLY BY MAIL

1 SELECT HUNTS TO APPLY FOR

Check the boxes of the hunts you want to apply for and specify your hunt day preference. Indicate if you are willing to accept any hunt day in the event you do not win for your hunt day preference. You may apply for each hunt only one time. Duplicate entries for the same hunt will be disqualified.

I will accept any date

HUNT DAY PREFERENCE: Y N APPLIC. DATE

TITLE

WATERFOWL					
<input type="checkbox"/>	101	Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	102	Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	103	Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	104	Tundra Swan Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	105	Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	106	Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	107	Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	108	Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006

DEER

<input type="checkbox"/>	201	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Archery)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	202	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Muzzleloader)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	203	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Firearms)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	204	Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts (Muzzleloader)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	205	Back Bay Natl Wildlife Refuge, False Cape St. Park Deer & Hog Hunt ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	206	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Archery) ²	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	207	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Muzzleloader) ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	208	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Firearms) ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	209	Presqu Shore National Wildlife Refuge (Firearms) ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006

MULTI-SPECIES WMA HUNTS

<input type="checkbox"/>	301	Cavalier & Dismal Swamp Tract WMA Hunts (formerly dismal swamp wma)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	302	Featherfin WMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006

2007 SPRING TURKEY HUNTS

<input type="checkbox"/>	401	Featherfin WMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	402	Amelia WMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006
<input type="checkbox"/>	403	Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10/6/2006

SMALL GAME

<input type="checkbox"/>	501	Amelia WMA Quail, Rabbit, and Woodcock Hunts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8/30/2006
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For winning applicants of certain hunts there will be an additional hunt fee either payable by mail in advance of the hunt or payable on the day of the hunt. Information on additional payments will be sent via US Mail with the winning applicants' package. See footnotes for corresponding fees.
¹ \$10.00 payable on the day of the hunt
² \$10.00 per day or \$50 for the season payable by mail in advance of the hunt
³ \$10.00 payable by mail

2 CALCULATE FEES

OF HUNTS SELECTED

X \$7.50 (each) = \$

A non-refundable application fee of \$7.50 per hunt applies. Make check payable to CyberData, Inc.

3 ENTER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Fill in all fields. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Please print clearly.

APPLICANT NAME:

Last	First	M.I.
------	-------	------

MAILING ADDRESS:

Street	
City	State
Zip Code	

DAYTIME PHONE#:

DATE OF BIRTH:	
----------------	--

EVENING PHONE#:

2006-2007 HUNTING LIC.# (REQUIRED)	
------------------------------------	--

EMAIL ADDRESS:

--	--

4 MAIL APPLICATION (WITH FEE) TO:

Virginia Quota Hunts

c/o CyberData, Inc.

P.O. Box 9009

Hicksville, New York 11802

Include a non-refundable application fee of \$7.50 for each hunt applied for. Make check payable to: CyberData, Inc.

All winning applicants will be notified by mail or email of their drawing result. All permits are non-transferable. Guest(s) must be accompanied by the permit holder.

Application by Phone: Available Monday - Friday (9:30 am - 4:30 pm EST) Call 1-877-VAHUNTS



DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

2006 RADFORD ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT DEER HUNT

APPLY ONLINE
www.vaquotahunts.com
IT'S FAST! IT'S EASY!

APPLICANT

Fill in all fields. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Please print clearly.
If non-1st time hunter, make sure name is identical to previous years.

Last		First		M.I.	
Address					
City		State	Zip Code		
DAYTIME PHONE#:		DATE OF BIRTH: (REQUIRED)			
EVENING PHONE#:		KEY NUMBER: (appears on last year's drawing results letter)			
EMAIL ADDRESS:					

* Required for non-1st time applicants.

CO-APPLICANT

Last		First		M.I.	
Address					
City		State	Zip Code		
DAYTIME PHONE#:		DATE OF BIRTH: (REQUIRED)			
EVENING PHONE#:		KEY NUMBER: (appears on last year's drawing results letter)			
EMAIL ADDRESS:					

* Required for non-1st time applicants.

STANDS FOR MOBILITY IMPAIRED: There are a limited number of wheelchair accessible stands.

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am mobility impaired and interested in applying for one of these stands.	Assistant's name	Assistant's Date of Birth
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will be accompanied by a non-hunting assistant		

WEAPON CHOICE

Check only one:

☐

SHOTGUN

November 18
November 25
November 29
December 2
December 6

☐

ARCHERY*

October 28
November 4

* QUALIFICATION REQUIRED - SKILLS TEST

RULES & REGULATIONS: (PLEASE READ)

The New River Unit of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant is a 2,800 acre area managed for quality white-tailed deer. This year's hunting dates will be **October 29, and November 4 for archery, and November 18, November 25, November 29, December 2, and December 6 for shotgun.** The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries uses a computer drawing to select individuals and the day they will hunt. There are three ways to apply for the Radford Hunt: 1) On-line at www.vaquotahunts.com, 2) toll-free at 1-877-VAHUNTS (1-877-824-8687), or 3) by mail:

- 1 Fill out this application**
Incomplete applications will be disqualified.
- 2 Include a \$10.00 application fee**
Money order, personal, or cashier's check made out to CyberData, Inc.
Fee is non-refundable.
- 3 and mail to: Virginia Quota Hunts c/o CyberData, Inc. P.O. Box 9009 Hicksville, NY 11802**

Your application must be received on or before **August 30, 2006 to be included in the drawing.**

- One application per applicant/coapplicant. Submitting more than one application will not increase your chances of being drawn.
- Applicants must be at least 12 years of age. Successful applicants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult possessing a valid hunting license. Adults accompanying applicants under 18 will not be allowed to hunt.
- Successful applicants will be notified through mail or email by October 1. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive notification of the drawing results.
- Antlerless deer are the only legal game, except during either-sex hunts. In order to qualify to apply for a drawing to participate in an either-sex hunt, an individual's previous hunt must have been an antlerless hunt.
- Hunt applicants may apply individually or with a coapplicant on the same application. When applying with a coapplicant for an either-sex hunt, both applicants' most recent hunt at RAAP must have been for antlerless deer. When applying with a coapplicant for any hunt, standing for the drawing will be based on the lower number of preference points of the two applicants.
- Successful applicants must possess all appropriate VA hunting license(s). All Federal & State game laws are applicable.
- All shooting will be done from elevated stands. Hunters must remain within 50 yards of stand unless accompanied by a VDGF representative.
- For archery hunting, bow must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards. Broadhead arrow points must be at least 7/8 inch wide. Broadheads must be covered with quiver. A maximum of four (4) arrows will be allowed. All archery hunters selected will be required to qualify prior to hunting by shooting two (2) of three (3) arrows into a target 9 inches in diameter at 20 and 30 yard distances from a stand elevated 14 feet above the ground. **THOSE WHO DO NOT QUALIFY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HUNT.** Dates and locations for qualifying will be furnished to successful applicants.
- Shotgun hunters will be required to wear a blaze orange cap and vest or jacket. Only slugs will be allowed. Shotguns must be 20 gauge or larger. A maximum of three (3) shells will be allowed. Only factory loaded shells are permitted. Scopes may be used on shotguns.
- No smoking, lighters, matches, or other spark producing devices are permitted.
- All persons entering the installation to hunt will be subject to search.
- Transportation to and from stands will be provided. Privately owned vehicles will not be allowed on the installation.
- Answers to questions about the hunt can be found on our website at www.dgif.virginia.gov or by calling VDGF, Blacksburg Office at (540) 961-8304.
- We reserve the right to alter or close the hunting season or to close any zone.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

Public Ranges

by Glen Askins, Regional Wildlife Biologist

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has public sighting-in ranges available at the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) listed below. These ranges were built to provide facilities for sportsmen to properly sight-in their firearms before going afield during hunting seasons. All Department public sighting-in ranges are handicapped accessible. Range rules and hours of operation are prominently posted at each range to promote shooting safety and proper care of the facilities. No reservations are required and there are no fees. Shooters are limited to one hour of shooting when range is full. Be sure to bring your own paper targets, cardboard backing, clothespins and tape. Shooters are encouraged to help maintain the ranges by packing-out their target materials and brass for proper disposal off site. Specific hours and dates of operation, range rules, scheduled closures, travel directions and other information is posted on the Agency Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

NOTE: The Department reserves the right to manage use and access of these facilities as deemed appropriate. These facilities are subject to emergency closures.

Also noted below are shooting ranges found on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

Department Sighting-In Ranges

Amelia Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets; area for clay bird shooting (bring own thrower and targets); and archery range. Pistol shooting is prohibited. For information contact: Forest Regional Office; 434 / 525-7522.

Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area: Ten covered bench shooting positions from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets; and 8 covered pistol stations from 10–50 yards. Clay target shooting is prohibited. For information contact: West Point Regional Office; 804 / 843-5962.

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Closed on Mondays. Snow and ice may result in temporary range closures in January, February and March. For information contact: Marion Regional Office; 276 / 783- 4860.

Gathright Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays. For information contact: Verona Regional Office; 540 / 248- 9360.

C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench-rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays. For information contact: Fredericksburg Regional Office; 540 / 899-4169.

White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench-rest stations from 25–100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays. For information contact: Forest Regional Office; 434 / 525-7522.

National Forest Shooting Ranges

The **Blacksburg Shooting Range** offers two facilities: an 18-position rifle/pistol for firing at stationary targets and a single position shotgun (trap) range. For information contact: New River Valley/New Castle Ranger District, 540 / 552- 4641.

The **Bath County Shooting Range** has 10 covered bench rests for shooting 50–100 yards. Pistols, rifles and shotguns are allowed at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: Warm Springs Ranger District, 540 / 839-2521.

The **Hite Hollow Shooting Range** is available for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: Dry River/Deerfield Ranger District, 540 / 432-0187.

The **Low Moor Shooting Range** provides 6 covered rifle bench rests and 3 covered pistol bench rests. Features include rifle range - stationary targets at 50 and 100 yards, and pistol range - stationary targets at 25 yards. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: James River Ranger District, 540 / 962-2214.

The **Pott's Slope Shooting Range** is handicapped-accessible with a covered shooting area. There are nine lanes for rifle and pistol use with stationary targets at 25, 50 and 100 yards. For information contact: New River Valley/New Castle Ranger District 540 / 552-4641.

The **West Side Shooting Range** provides shooting lanes of various lengths with covered shooting benches. For more information contact: Dry River/Deerfield Ranger District, 540 / 432-0187.

The **Wythe Shooting Range** includes six 25 yard lanes and four 100-yard lanes. For more information contact: New River Valley/New Castle Ranger District, 540 / 552-4641.

When visiting the National Forest, please remember firearms may be discharged for target practice only at established shooting ranges. Discharging a firearm in a developed recreation site is dangerous and prohibited. For more information contact: the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Headquarters at 516 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA. 24019, or call 540 / 265-5100.

Landowner Management Programs and Improved Hunter Relations

For landowners, new hunting regulations in combination with the wildlife management information found in this Digest can be effective in helping landowners achieve management goals and reduce or eliminate wildlife-related problems. It is somewhat ironic that recent surveys show that most forest landowners value providing wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing more than they value their timber resources! Yet, two of the greatest concerns expressed by many landowners are too many deer destroying habitat and landscaping plants and a few irresponsible hunters violating game laws and being disrespectful of the owner's property rights.

A real practical and effective solution to wildlife damage and reducing hunting violations and trespass is responsible, managed hunting!

In Virginia, great opportunity exists for bringing together landowners and ethical sportsmen. Positive management of access results in improved recreational opportunities and benefits landowners. Landowners and their families feel more secure when they know who is on their land and where they are. Property damage and littering will be reduced. Permitted guests can help post boundaries and assist preventing trespass. Wildlife populations, especially deer herds, will be better managed through controlled harvests and management programs like DMAP. New and improved relationships may be developed, and landowners may obtain additional income from permit and lease agreements.

Wildlife biologists advocate that the only effective control of a deer population is through increasing hunting pressure on the female segment of the herd. Simply- **HARVEST MORE DOES!** Game Wardens will recommend the best way to deal with irresponsible hunters is to open your property to responsible sportsmen through leasing or written permission.

Wildlife Habitat Programs Available

A wide array of habitat management programs are available to Virginia landowners, hunt clubs and even urban homeowners. The place to begin is with a plan that considers the existing habitat and the species you wish to emphasize. A good first contact is one of the Game Department's numerous publications addressing species' needs and habitat management techniques. If you would like a more detailed plan for your acreage, the Department offers free technical assistance to landowners through our District Biologists. Biologists can be contacted at any of the Department's offices listed on page 2. Biologists can often direct you to a program that will offer financial assistance. One of the following programs may fit your needs:

WHIP

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. WHIP targets 4 principle areas: farm wildlife habitat, migration corridors, riparian habitats, and habitats for

threatened and endangered species. It covers activities such as planting native grass nesting cover, shrub row field borders, prescribed burning and a host of other practices. Contracts last from 5–15 years and 75% cost share is available. Only permanent habitat improvements are covered (not food plots). Contact your local NRCS office for more details and to sign up.

CRP/CREP

The U. S. Department of Agriculture offers a variety of other more narrowly targeted programs that may fit your needs. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and its Virginia Enhancement (CREP) offer 10–15 year agreements with annual per acre payments and 50% cost share to establish a cover, which can be tailored to the wildlife you wish to attract.

CREP is mainly aimed at streamside plantings and protection and buffers on the lower portions of ag fields with similar agreements and cost share. Contact USDA or Conservation District offices for information on these programs.

The Continuous CRP (CCRP) program offers a unique opportunity to provide quail and turkey brood habitat by adding field borders designed to be especially attractive to young birds. Known as CP-33, "Upland Bird Buffers" can be planted to native grasses, a legume mixture or let go fallow as natural cover. Cost share and rental payments vary in the range of \$60-80/acre/year for 10 years.

Wetland Restoration

There are several programs that offer technical and cost share assistance for wetland restoration, enhancement, management and long-term protection. Since there are usually permitting and other technical considerations, you should start by contacting the Department's Wetlands Project leader at 804-843-5962 for a technical appraisal of your particular situation.

Seed Programs

Members of conservation organizations such as Quail Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation may be able to obtain certain food plot seed at discount rates. Contact your local chapter officers for details. See page 3 for Web sites.

Urban and Suburban Habitats

The Game Department offers a program for homeowners to assist them in improving their properties for wildlife called Habitat At Home©. This program offers information and education on creating and improving wildlife habitat around homes. Contact (804) 367-6989 for more information.

And finally, there is a list of suppliers of hard-to-find plant materials on the Department's Web site, as well as a host of other information that you might find helpful.

What Landowners Should Know

Finding responsible hunters can be frustrating for some landowners, especially if they are absentee or do not hunt themselves. There are benefits of having responsible hunters included as an important part of the landowner's wildlife management plan. Information on locating responsible hunters can be found in several ways. On page 3 of the Hunting Digest is a list of sportsman conservation organizations that are dedicated and reputable partners with VDGIF in promoting scientific management, ethics, safety and opportunities for youth, women and other non-traditional participants in outdoor sports. Visit their listed Web sites and contact statewide officers or local chapters and representatives for leads on members who would welcome the opportunity to hunt.

There are many in-kind benefits of such relationships including road maintenance, habitat improvement, security and safety. Reputable hunt clubs are also helpful, and lease fees can offset property taxes. Local civic groups like Ruritans or 4-H Clubs, sporting goods shops and other landowners such as participants in Tree Farm or Stewardship Programs can be sources for contacts.

Liability

Concern about legal liability for recreationists prevents some landowners from permitting hunting on their property. However, the Virginia General Assembly has addressed this concern in Virginia Code Section 29.1-509. Amended in 1982, this law exempts

landowners who provide recreational opportunities to the public from liability for injury or damages provided:

- landowner does not charge a fee.
- there is no gross negligence or "willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use or structure" on the property.

The property owner should eliminate obvious hazards such as open wells and falling down buildings, or fence-off and identify with warning signs any hazard that cannot be eliminated, such as a rock quarry. The landowner may wish to consider insuring the property subject to casualty and obtain comprehensive liability insurance. These are relatively inexpensive additions to standard and homeowner insurance policies. Sportsmen can be asked to help provide financial or other support in return for permission to use the lands.

Fundamentally, sportsmen are responsible for their own safety and for any damages they cause to the property of others. Lease agreements and individual permit cards (see below) provided in this Digest include codes of ethical conduct while the holders are on the property. Furthermore, landowners can require sportsmen to show proof of insurance. Sportsman insurance is available through insurance companies and national sportsman organizations.

**Report Wildlife violations on the
DGIF crime line by calling:
1-800-237-5712.**

AFFIDAVIT

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.



PERMISSION TO

Hunt, fish, trap, camp, etc.

I hereby grant the person named on the reverse side permission to use my property for the above purpose on the following dates:

Signed _____
Landowner

AFFIDAVIT

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.



PERMISSION TO

Hunt, fish, trap, camp, etc.

I hereby grant the person named on the reverse side permission to use my property for the above purpose on the following dates:

Signed _____
Landowner

Hunting on Private Property

Trespass violations, posting property and access issues are all concerns affecting landowner's considerations for allowing hunting. Detailed information on leasing, liability and posting can be found in Extension Publication # 420-035 entitled "A Landowner's Guide to Working With Sportsmen in Virginia." Available on Web at www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/forestry/.html

Hunters are reminded that **it is unlawful to hunt on private property without the permission of the landowner** and hunters must have the permission of the landowner to track or retrieve wounded game on private property.

On Posted Property, it is unlawful to hunt without written permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$2500 and/or 12 months in jail.

Landowners may post their property by any of the following methods:

- Using a paint mark of aluminum color paint consisting of a vertical line at least two inches in width and at least eight inches in length, no less than three feet and not more than six feet from the ground or normal water surface and visible when approaching the property.
- Signs which specifically prohibit hunting, fishing or trespassing on the property.

Property not posted:


It is unlawful to hunt any unposted property without permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.




Ron Messina



Mel White

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Auto License No. _____
Driver's License No. _____
I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.
Signature _____
<div><div>SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE<p>In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:</p><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Respect the landowner's property, going only where he designates and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.</div></div>
Signature _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Auto License No. _____
Driver's License No. _____
I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.
Signature _____
<div><div>SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE<p>In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:</p><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Respect the landowner's property, going only where he designates and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.</div></div>
Signature _____

Special Youth Regulations and Opportunities

“We protect what we appreciate, we appreciate what we understand, and we understand what we are taught... take your son or daughter hunting and fishing; teach them the wonders of nature. We all will be better for it and our rich outdoor sports traditions will be passed to the next generation.”

Scott Naff



The future of our rich hunting heritage depends on passing traditions and skills to the next generation. We have partnered with many organizations and individual volunteers to improve regulations to favor youth hunting opportunities and provide training in safety, ethics and skills development. This new section provides a quick reference to the special hunting opportunities, licenses and hunter skills training that are available for youth, under the age of 16.

Be sure to refer to the appropriate section in the Digest for detailed information to ensure all regulations are followed.

Mandatory Hunter Education Requirements

See page 7 for details.

All persons who are 12–15 years of age are required to present a Hunter Education Certificate in order to purchase a hunting license. Certificates are obtained by completing a 10- hour Hunter Education Course. Official courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. To learn about courses available in your area, call 866-604-1122, or check the Department's Web site.

A hunting license may be issued without presenting a Hunter Education Certificate to any person under the age of 12 as long as the Youth is directly supervised within sight of an adult when hunting. The supervising adult must possess a valid Virginia hunting license.

Youth Hunting Licenses and Permits

See pages 8-9 for details.

There are a variety of affordable license options for youth under the age of 16, depending on their skill and interest level. Licenses available to youth hunters include:

- **Resident Junior licenses to hunt statewide** ranging in cost from \$7.50 to \$15.00.
- **Nonresident Youth licenses** ranging in cost from \$12.00 to \$30.00
- **Combination licenses** to hunt deer, bear and turkey and **Life-time licenses** are also available.

Note that **youth residents under the age of 12 are not required to obtain a license to hunt** provided they are accompanied and directly supervised within sight of an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on their person.

The resident or non-resident children and grandchildren of resident or non-resident landowners **do not need a license** to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters.

Special Youth Big Game Hunting Opportunities

There is a **Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation** which allows hunters 15 years of age and under, resident or nonresident, to harvest one antlerless deer per license year on days other than those designated as either-sex deer hunting days. This regulation extends during the muzzleloading seasons or the firearms season in all counties that have at least one either-sex deer hunting day. See page 32 for details

On Saturday April 7, there is a **Special Spring Turkey Hunt** for youth, one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon, statewide. Only youth hunters between the ages of 12 and 15 with the appropriate valid hunting licenses may hunt. Hunters under the age of 12 are not required to have a license. All youth must be directly supervised and within sight of an adult possessing a valid Virginia hunting license. The adult may assist with calling, but shall not carry or discharge a firearm. See page 40 for details.

Quota Hunts and Managed Hunts for Youth

See pages 62-68 for details.

Quota Hunts and Managed Hunts provide unique opportunities for youth and novice hunters to experience a variety of hunting opportunities in specially selected sites at refuges and management areas throughout the state. Designated hunt dates and sites are reserved for waterfowl, deer, turkey and small game. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult. Hunters are required to apply pre-season and be selected by random drawing to hunt. A non-refundable application fee of \$7.50 may be required for some hunts. A hunter may apply by mail, telephone or through the Department's Web site. Hunters will be notified by mail if selected or not selected for each hunt applied.

Youth Outreach Programs and Events

Outreach programs offered to the public are hands-on educational activities led by enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and professional instructors in a highly supportive atmosphere. Game hunt events that include Squirrel Hunts, Dove Hunts, Generation and Women's Deer Hunts, and Women's Upland Game Hunts are designed for novice hunters.

Numerous conservation organizations including National Wild Turkey Federation JAKES Program, Ducks Unlimited GREENWINGS program, Izaak Walton League, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation Hunting Heritage Partnership, 4-H Shooting Sports Program and many more provide events and opportunities in partnership with the Department. For information or registration forms for any of these programs visit the Department's Web site.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does a nonresident youth under the age of 12 need to purchase a hunting license in order to hunt in Virginia?

A: Yes. Non-resident hunters under the age of 12 are not exempt from purchasing a hunting license. The State does provide a youth non-resident hunting license at a significantly reduced fee. Any hunter under the age of 12 may purchase a hunting license without taking a hunter education course. A properly licensed adult must accompany and supervise, within sight, any youth hunter under age 12.

Q: My 11 year old resident son bought a hunting license although he was not required to have one. May he hunt alone since he has his own hunting license?

A: No. A properly licensed adult must accompany and supervise, within sight, any youth hunter under age 12.

Q: How much time do I have to check in a deer or spring turkey when using the telephone call in check system?

A: When you kill any animal that requires checking, you must check it upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.

Q: My 11 year old son who does not have a hunting license killed a deer, does he have to check it or should I check it for him with my license?

A: All hunters, youth included, must check their own game (deer, bear, turkey). It is unlawful to check game that someone else has killed. A person exempt from license requirements may check game by telephone using the last four digits of their social security number as their license number. A person exempt from license requirements may check game at a Big Game Check Station by advising the station operator that he/she is license exempt. Hunters exempt from purchasing a hunting license are exempt from validating their license upon killing a deer, bear or turkey, because they have no license.

Q: My 15 year old daughter killed an antlerless deer on a designated either sex day for our county. Is she still allowed to kill an antlerless deer on a non designated either sex day under the Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation?

A: Yes. This special regulation allows youths age 15 and under to take one antlerless deer on a non-designated either sex day even if she has already taken an antlerless deer on a designated either sex day.

Q: My friend and I plan to hunt spring turkey together. If I were to kill one first, may I assist him in calling a turkey for him the same day?

A: Yes. You may assist in calling a turkey for a companion hunter if your firearm/bow is unloaded. After obtaining a season bag limit (Fall or Spring) a hunter may assist another hunter, only if

not in possession of a firearm or bow, when the hunt commences.

Q: Do I need a hunting license just to accompany someone who is hunting, even if I don't carry a weapon?

A: If you are along strictly to observe, then you do not need a license. However, if you assist the hunter then you would need a license appropriate for whatever game animal that is being hunted.

Q: May I use a rifle to hunt deer in a county where I see nothing mentioned about use of a rifle for hunting deer in the Local Firearms Ordinances, Laws and Regulations Section on page 23?

A: Some cities and towns have local firearm ordinances that are not listed in this pamphlet. If a locality listed in the Local Firearms Ordinance Section is silent with respect to the use of a rifle for deer hunting, then the statewide requirements apply. If you are unsure, contact a local official for the jurisdiction where you plan to hunt.

Q: Can I hunt coyotes at night?

A: Yes. Coyotes are listed as “nuisance species,” and the law states that nuisance species may be hunted at night.

Q: Can I hunt coyotes on Sunday?

A: No. Nuisance species are specifically prohibited from being hunted on Sundays.

Q: May I take a muzzleloader and a shotgun with me when deer hunting?

A: If hunting deer during the Special Muzzleloader Season, it is illegal to possess a shotgun. If hunting during the general firearms season for deer and the county being hunted does not specifically prohibit the use of muzzleloaders during general firearms season for deer, then both firearms can be carried and possessed in the field.

Q: I lost my hunter education certificate. Where may I obtain a duplicate certificate?

A: Call 1-877-486-8338.

Q: How close to a public road may I legally hunt?

A: It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow into, across, or within, the right-of-way of any public road. Some localities have additional restrictions on hunting near a public road, see Local Firearms Ordinances on page 23.

Q: Where may I buy a state forest stamp?

A: Contact the state forest that you want to hunt from the list on page 17 of these regulations.

Q: I purchased a Virginia lifetime hunting license two years ago and have since moved to North Carolina and am a resident there. I plan to hunt deer in Virginia this fall on private land. What licenses will I need?

A: Your lifetime hunting license is still valid. You will be required to purchase a Nonresident Bear, Deer, Turkey License and any other applicable nonresident licenses such as archery, crossbow, or muzzleloader.

Q: Do you have a list of shooting preserves?

A: Yes. The Shooting Preserve list is found on the VDGIF web site. The list can also be obtained by contacting the VDGIF Central Office, 804-367-1000.

Q: I know I don't need a hunting license to hunt on my own land, but what about the muzzleloader license, archery license, or any other licenses I am required to buy?

A: For those exempt from license requirements to hunt on family land, the only two license requirements are a Federal Waterfowl Stamp, if hunting waterfowl, and Bonus Deer Permits, to exceed the season bag limit for deer.

Q: Can I use a .22 caliber rifle or pistol to hunt turkeys?

A: Yes! You may use any caliber rifle or pistol to hunt during fall or spring turkey seasons, except where prohibited by local county/city ordinance (see page 23).

Q: My son purchased a "Youth Combination License" and later turned 16 during the hunting season. Is his license still valid following his 16th birthday?

A: Yes! His "Youth Combination License" is valid for the remainder of the current license year.

Q: May I use a muzzleloader or bow during the firearms deer season?

A: Yes, except where local ordinances prohibit their use. (See page 23 for Local Ordinances).

Q: I am a nonresident owning land and paying property taxes in Virginia. Am I entitled to purchase a resident hunting license?

A: No. However, nonresident landowners are not required to purchase a hunting license to hunt on their property in Virginia. (Refer to page 6, Hunting Licenses and Permits).

Q: May I sight in my gun or target practice on public land?

A: Target practice and sighting-in is allowed only on developed sighting-in ranges, which are located only on specific WMAs and National Forest Lands. (See page 69 for specific information).

Q: How can I report a game law violation?

A: Law violations may be anonymously reported to 1-800-237-5712 or via e-mail at wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov (Refer to "To Report Wildlife Violations" on page 15).

Q: How close to a residence may I legally hunt?

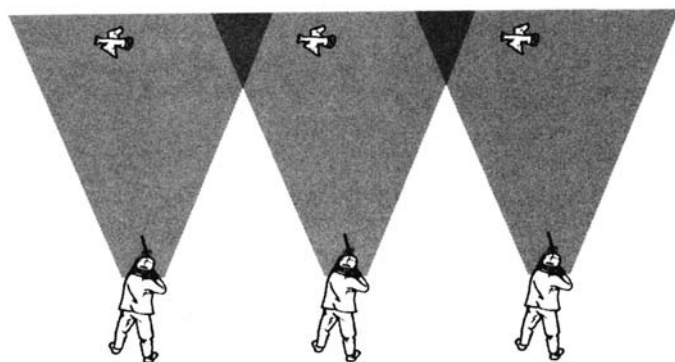
A: There is no state law that prescribes a distance requirement. However, local county/city ordinances may require a specific distance. Contact a local county/city official for this information. Always use courtesy and commonsense.

Q: Are wildlife food plots and other plantings allowed under the new law that prohibits feeding deer from September 1 through January 6?

A: Yes, plantings of any type are legal. It is acceptable wildlife management to plant to provide enhanced food and cover for wildlife.

Q: Are attractant scents for deer considered bait?

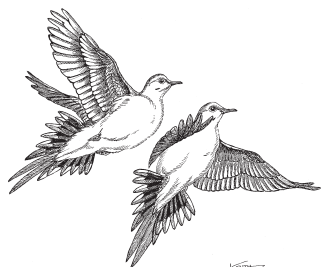
A: No, scents are not ingested by the mouth or tongue as a food or salt.



Zones of Fire

Often hunters walk beside each other during their hunt. It is important that each use a carry position that keeps the muzzle away from hunters to the side. The diagram above shows the "zones of fire." Each hunter can safely shoot in front of himself and a little to each side. Overlap of shooting zones is small to ensure safety. The hunters at the ends do not shoot at game to the side and no one turns around to shoot at game behind them.

Waterfowl/Migratory Game Birds



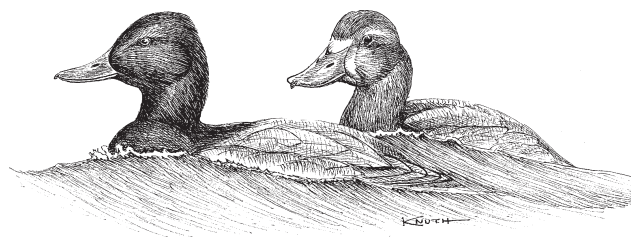
Seasons and bag limits for ducks, geese, brant, swans, doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, and other migratory game birds must conform to the frameworks established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In June each year the Department establishes the seasons on dove, woodcock, snipe, rail, September Canada goose, and September teal. In August seasons and bag limits are established for ducks, geese, brant, and swan. Separate brochures will be published and are supplements to this Hunting and Trapping Digest.

All migratory game bird hunters (whether licensed or exempt from being licensed) who plan to hunt doves, waterfowl, rails, woodcock, snipe, coot, gallinules or moorhens in Virginia must be registered with the Virginia Harvest Information Program (HIP). HIP is required each year, and a new registration number is needed for each hunting season. The HIP registration is free. To obtain a new HIP number, migratory game bird hunters can register on line at www.vahip.com. This is the easiest and fastest way to register. Or call toll free 1-888-788-9772 to obtain your HIP number by phone.

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Virginia persons 16 years and older, unless licensed exempt, must have a Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. The Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is mandatory in Virginia. Every person issued the stamp must carry it on his person when hunting or taking any migratory waterfowl. The Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is good for one year from the date of purchase. The annual fee for the stamp is \$9.75. All persons 16 years and older are also required to have a current Federal Duck Stamp. Federal duck stamps are available at most Post Offices and at the Department Headquarters in Richmond, VA.

Migratory Game Bird hunters are reminded to report all bird bands to the Fish and Wildlife Service using the toll free number 1-800-327-BAND. Operators are on duty 7:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. At other times a voice-mail system will ask hunters to leave a telephone number.

More information on waterfowl and migratory game bird quota hunts and managed hunts offered by the Department are on pages 62–66 of this digest.



Hunters for the Hungry

Our 2006 Goal – 350,000 pounds
Will you help us reach our goal by donating venison
and/or dollars?

Hunters for the Hungry receives donated deer from successful hunters. Funds are raised to cover the costs of professional processing. The venison is distributed to the needy across the state.

This past season 340,173 pounds of venison was distributed. Over 2.6 million pounds or 10.5 million servings of venison have been distributed in Virginia since 1991.

Each \$35.00 contribution allows us to accept another deer. Every dollar donated aids our effort to combat hunger and promote the tradition of hunting. Hunters donating an entire deer are not required to pay any part of the processing fee.

Legislation was passed in 2003 in honor of Hunters for the Hungry founder, David Horne. The David Horne Hunger Relief Bill gives you the opportunity to donate \$2.00 to the Hunters for the Hungry program when you purchase your hunting license. One hundred percent of your donation will go to providing venison to the hungry.

You can make a difference to the hungry and to the future of hunting in Virginia. For additional information call 1-800-352-HUNT (4868), or e-mail: hunt4hungry@cs.com, or visit the Web site at www.h4hungry.org or write to P.O. Box 304, Big Island, VA 24526.



**\$2.00 DONATION -
HUNTERS FOR THE
HUNGRY**

2006-2007 Hunting Seasons Quick Reference

Big Game

Deer

Archery

Statewide (Early) – October 7–November 17
West (Late) – December 4–January 6
Chesapeake, Suffolk (east) & Virginia Beach –
December 1–January 6
Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick & Pittsylvania (west) –
December 18–January 6
Urban Archery – September 16–October 6
January 8–March 31 (special restrictions apply)

Muzzleloader

East (Early) – November 4–17
West (Early) – November 11–17
West & certain counties east (Late) – December 16–
January 6
Chesapeake & Virginia Beach (Late) –
December 16–January 6

Firearms

East – November 18–January 6
West – November 18–December 2
Chesapeake, Suffolk (east) & Virginia Beach –
October 2–November 30
Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick & Pittsylvania (west) –
November 18–December 16

Turkey

Fall

Archery – October 7–November 11

Firearms

Generally – October 28–November 10, November 23,
and December 11–January 6.
Prince George, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry,
Sussex and Buchanan – October 28–November 10
and November 23
Certain counties in Northern Neck, Middle and Lower
Peninsula areas – October 28–November 10,
November 23, and December 11–23

Spring Gobbler

(Statewide) General – April 14–May 5 and May 7–19
Youth Day (Statewide, age 15 and younger) – April 7

Bear

Archery

(Statewide) – October 14–November 11

Muzzleloading

(Certain counties) – November 14–17

Firearms

West (certain counties) – November 27–January 6
Southwest (certain counties) – December 4–16
Chesapeake, Suffolk, Virginia Beach – November 6–
January 6

Hound Training

Certain counties – August 12–September 30
Certain counties – December 4–16 (closed Sunday)

Small Game and Furbearers

Bobcat

Archery: October 7–31

Firearms: November 1–February 28

Coyote

Continuous open season

Crow

August 19–March 17 (On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays,
and Saturdays only)

Fox

Firearms (certain counties) – November 1–February 28

Dogs Only (except National Forest and certain public
lands) – Continuous open season

Groundhog

Continuous open season

Grouse

October 28–February 10 (west of I-95)

Opossum

October 16–March 10

Quail & Pheasant

November 11–January 31

Rabbit

November 4–February 14

Raccoon

Firearms – October 16–March 10

Continuous open season in all counties and portions of counties east
of Rt. 29 and in the counties of Loudoun (east of Rt. 15) and Prince
William (east of Rt. 15).

August 1–May 31 On **private lands** in all counties and portions of
counties west of Route 29 and in the counties of Loudoun (west of
Rt. 15) and Prince William (west of Rt. 15) **and on** Fairystone
Farms, G. Richard Thompson, Rapidan and Turkeycock Wildlife
Management Areas.

Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunks only

Squirrel

Firearms – September 2–January 31

(fox squirrels certain counties)

June 2-23, 2007 (certain WMA's)

(fox squirrels certain WMA's)

Trapping

Beaver, Mink, Muskrat, Otter, Weasel:

December 1–February 28

Bobcat, Fox, Opossum, Raccoon

November 15–February 28

Coyote, Nutria, Skunk (striped only)

Continuous open season

Rabbit

October 15–January 31

Sunrise and Sunset Timetable

Richmond, Virginia (All Years)

Sunrise-sunset times below are Eastern Standard Time
Add one hour for Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Day	JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)
1	7:25	5:03	7:13	5:34	6:41	6:04	5:55	6:33	5:14	7:00	4:50	7:25	4:52	7:35	5:14	7:18	5:40	6:39	6:05	5:53	6:35	5:11	7:06	4:52
2	7:25	5:03	7:12	5:35	6:40	6:05	5:54	6:34	5:13	7:01	4:50	7:26	4:53	7:35	5:15	7:17	5:41	6:37	6:06	5:51	6:36	5:10	7:07	4:52
3	7:25	5:04	7:11	5:36	6:38	6:06	5:52	6:35	5:12	7:02	4:49	7:27	4:53	7:35	5:16	7:16	5:42	6:36	6:07	5:50	6:37	5:09	7:08	4:51
4	7:25	5:05	7:11	5:37	6:37	6:07	5:51	6:35	5:11	7:03	4:49	7:27	4:54	7:35	5:16	7:15	5:43	6:34	6:08	5:48	6:38	5:08	7:09	4:51
5	7:25	5:06	7:10	5:39	6:35	6:08	5:49	6:36	5:10	7:04	4:49	7:28	4:54	7:34	5:17	7:14	5:44	6:33	6:09	5:47	6:39	5:07	7:10	4:51
6	7:25	5:07	7:09	5:40	6:34	6:09	5:48	6:37	5:09	7:04	4:49	7:29	4:55	7:34	5:18	7:13	5:44	6:31	6:10	5:45	6:40	5:06	7:11	4:51
7	7:25	5:08	7:08	5:41	6:32	6:10	5:46	6:38	5:08	7:05	4:49	7:29	4:55	7:34	5:19	7:11	5:45	6:30	6:11	5:44	6:41	5:05	7:11	4:51
8	7:25	5:09	7:07	5:42	6:31	6:11	5:45	6:39	5:07	7:06	4:48	7:30	4:56	7:34	5:20	7:10	5:46	6:28	6:12	5:42	6:42	5:04	7:12	4:51
9	7:25	5:10	7:06	5:43	6:30	6:12	5:43	6:40	5:06	7:07	4:48	7:30	4:57	7:33	5:21	7:09	5:47	6:27	6:13	5:41	6:43	5:04	7:13	4:51
10	7:25	5:11	7:05	5:44	6:28	6:13	5:42	6:41	5:05	7:08	4:48	7:31	4:57	7:33	5:22	7:08	5:48	6:25	6:13	5:39	6:44	5:03	7:14	4:52
11	7:24	5:12	7:03	5:45	6:27	6:13	5:40	6:42	5:04	7:09	4:48	7:31	4:58	7:32	5:22	7:07	5:49	6:23	6:14	5:38	6:46	5:02	7:15	4:52
12	7:24	5:13	7:02	5:46	6:25	6:14	5:39	6:43	5:03	7:10	4:48	7:32	4:59	7:32	5:23	7:06	5:49	6:22	6:15	5:37	6:47	5:01	7:15	4:52
13	7:24	5:14	7:01	5:47	6:24	6:15	5:38	6:44	5:02	7:11	4:48	7:32	4:59	7:32	5:24	7:04	5:50	6:20	6:16	5:35	6:48	5:00	7:16	4:52
14	7:24	5:15	7:00	5:48	6:22	6:16	5:36	6:45	5:01	7:12	4:48	7:32	5:00	7:31	5:25	7:03	5:51	6:19	6:17	5:34	6:49	5:00	7:17	4:52
15	7:23	5:16	6:59	5:49	6:21	6:17	5:35	6:45	5:00	7:12	4:48	7:33	5:01	7:31	5:26	7:02	5:52	6:17	6:18	5:32	6:50	4:59	7:17	4:53
16	7:23	5:17	6:58	5:50	6:19	6:18	5:33	6:46	5:00	7:13	4:48	7:33	5:01	7:30	5:27	7:01	5:53	6:16	6:19	5:31	6:51	4:58	7:18	4:53
17	7:23	5:18	6:57	5:52	6:18	6:19	5:32	6:47	4:59	7:14	4:48	7:33	5:02	7:29	5:28	6:59	5:54	6:14	6:20	5:30	6:52	4:57	7:19	4:53
18	7:22	5:19	6:55	5:53	6:16	6:20	5:31	6:48	4:58	7:15	4:48	7:34	5:03	7:29	5:28	6:58	5:54	6:13	6:21	5:28	6:53	4:57	7:19	4:54
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23	7:20	5:24	6:49	5:58	6:09	6:25	5:24	6:53	4:55	7:19	4:49	7:35	5:07	7:25	5:33	6:51	5:59	6:05	6:26	5:22	6:58	4:54	7:22	4:56
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28	7:16	5:30	6:42	6:03	6:01	6:29	5:18	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51	7:35	5:11	7:21	5:37	6:44	6:03	5:57	6:31	5:16	7:03	4:52	7:24	4:59
29	7:16	5:31			6:00	6:30	5:17	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51	7:35	5:11	7:21	5:38	6:43	6:04	5:56	6:32	5:15	7:04	4:52	7:24	5:00
30	7:15	5:32			5:58	6:31	5:15	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52	7:35	5:12	7:20	5:39	6:41	6:05	5:54	6:33	5:13	7:05	4:52	7:24	5:01
31	7:14	5:33			5:57	6:32			4:51	7:25			5:13	7:19	5:39	6:40			6:34	5:12			7:25	5:02

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times
to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

Location	Correction	Location	Correction
Newport News	-5 minutes	Bristol	+19 minutes
Norfolk	-5 minutes	Cape Charles	-6 minutes
Roanoke	+10 minutes	Charlottesville	+4 minutes
Tazewell	+16 minutes	Chincoteague	-8 minutes
Williamsburg	-3 minutes	Danville	+8 minutes
Winchester	+3 minutes	Fredericksburg	0 minutes

Department's Regulation Review Process

The Department's hunting, fishing, wildlife diversity, and boating regulations review and amendment process is starting now, and we encourage your participation. The Board of Game and Inland Fisheries plans to conduct Board meetings in March, July, and October 2007 to consider amendments to regulations (exact dates to be announced). Under the 2007 process, the public will again have extended opportunity to review and comment on staff recommended regulation amendments before the Board acts to propose and finalize amendments. As part of this process, VDGIF is inviting anglers, hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, and boaters to speak out now about any changes in regulations that you think should be considered. Starting July 2006, we have established a site on the Agency Web page (www.dgif.virginia.gov/regulations) for you to send us any issues or changes that you think need to be made to VDGIF regulations. If you do not have web access you can always send us your written comments by mail to: Policy Analyst/Regulatory Coordinator, DGIF, 4010 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230.

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Attention Hunters

Now Enjoy a Full Year of Hunting

Effective July 1, 2006, all licenses sold by VDGIF will be valid one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the National Forest Permit.

By using a new state of the art automated license system the Department will provide improved service to hunters and license vendors, along with a more efficient and convenient way to enjoy time in the outdoors.

Buy Early – Buy All

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES RESIDENT LICENSE		06	PRIVILEGES	EXPIRES ON	PRICE
License #: VA4000299			00006 00052 600112 343		
Primary License #: VA4000035					
Name:			Resident State Hunting	07/30/07	13.00
CID: xxxxxx1234			Resident Deer Bear Turkey License	06/30/07	13.00
DOB: 01/01/1960			Resident Muzzleloading License	07/30/07	13.00
Gender: Male			Resident Archery	07/30/06	13.00
Address:			National Forest Permit	06/30/07	4.00
			Total		56.00
Agent: 041036 Joe M Issued: 07/31/06			Check Your Expiration Dates		
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